Thursday, May 21, 2026 No 140 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Putin, Xi hail 'unyielding' ties in talks after Trump visit

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UAPA bail curbs: Delhi Police seek larger bench reference

Page 12

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/200526/008667
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A "spacious" hall where the sofa and TV adjust for space.

A balcony that's a laundry zone... with a "garden view" by one small plant.

Pakkad mane folks so close... they and their noses live in your business.

Kids adjusting between corridors and car parks for play area.

"Prime location" that's still not connected to everything important.

What if life was less about swalpa adjusting... and a lot more about living?

Bengaluru, #NO more "swalpa adjust maadi"

LAUNCHING CASAGRAND MOONDANCE

OFF MYSORE RD.
15 mins from RR Nagar

Spacious 2 & 3 BHK Apartments at an Unbelievable Price from ₹73 L – ₹1.08 Cr*

MARKET PRICE	LAUNCH PRICE	EARLY BIRD PRICE
~~₹7499~~/sft.	~~₹5599~~/sft.	₹5199/sft.
		(For 25 bookings only)

*T & C apply

#NoMoreSwalpaAdjustMaadi

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LAUNCHING

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~~₹7499~~/sft.	~~₹5599~~/sft.	₹5199/sft.

Handover in 30 months

TYPE	SIZE	LAUNCH PRICE	EARLY BIRD PRICE (FOR FIRST 25 BOOKINGS)
2 BHK	1171 sft. - 1470 sft.	~~₹77L - ₹92L~~	₹73L - ₹86L
3 BHK	1641 sft. - 1866 sft.	~~₹1.03Cr - ₹1.14Cr~~	₹97L - ₹1.08Cr

No. of Units: 504 | Units Sold: 247 | Units Available: 257

Stop *adjusting* Start *living*

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8.6 acres with just 504 homes, 4.5 acres of open space, & 3 central courtyards across 71,500 sft.

Lifestyle
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Planning
100% vaastu-compliant homes with convertible balconies for 3x light & ventilation

Space
12ft wide living & dining spaces, 13ft bedrooms & expansive 8ft windows, largest in the segment

Premium Specifications
Grand main door with digital door lock, premium CP sanitary fittings & more

*T & C apply

65+ World-class Amenities

Outdoor Amenities

FEATURES & ENTERTAINMENT
1. Walking & Jogging Track
2. Cycling Track
3. Senior Citizen Court
4. Reflexology Pathway
5. Aromatic Garden
6. Multi-Purpose Lawn
7. Pets Park With Wash Area
8. Outdoor Board Games **& 8 more**

KIDS
17 Sensory Walk
18. Skating Rink
19. Adventure Play Area
20. Play Mound **& 5 more**

SPORTS, FITNESS & WELLBEING
26. Multipurpose Court
27. Badminton Court
28. Mini-Golf Putting
29. Outdoor Gym **& 4 more**

SWIMMING POOL
34. Adults Pool
35. Kid's Pool
36. Pool Volley Ball
37. Poolside Café
38. Jacuzzi **& 5 more**

Clubhouse Amenities

FEATURES & ENTERTAINMENT
44. Multipurpose Hall with Pantry
45. Minitheatre

INDOOR GAMES
46. Table Tennis
47. Billiard Table
48. Subsoccer
49. Indoor Mini Golf **& 4 more**

FITNESS & WELLBEING
54. Gym
55. Yoga / Aerobics

KIDS PLAY AREA
56. Ball Pool with Slide **& 2 more**

CO-WORKING SPACE
59. Conference Room
60. Co-Working Space
61. Learning Centre

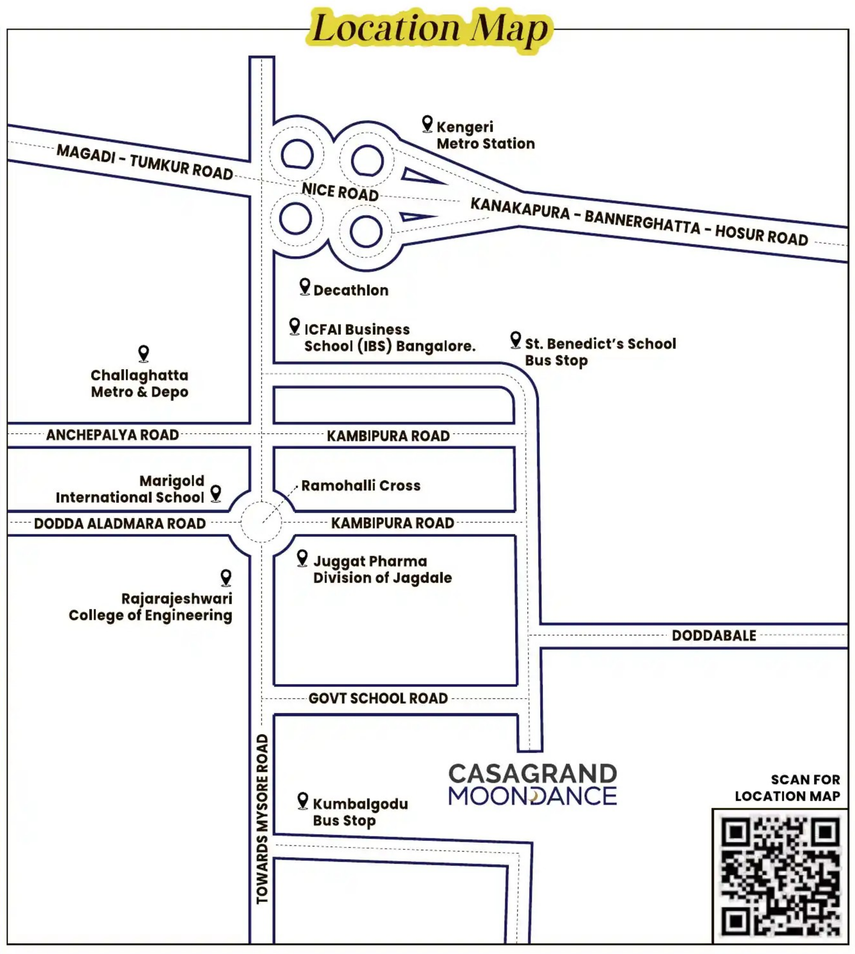
TERRACE
62. Sky Cinema **& 2 more**

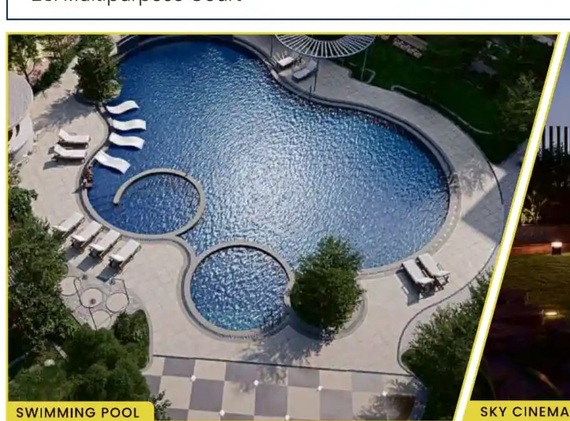
CONVENIENCE
65. Ironing Shop
66. Convenio Store **& 3 more**

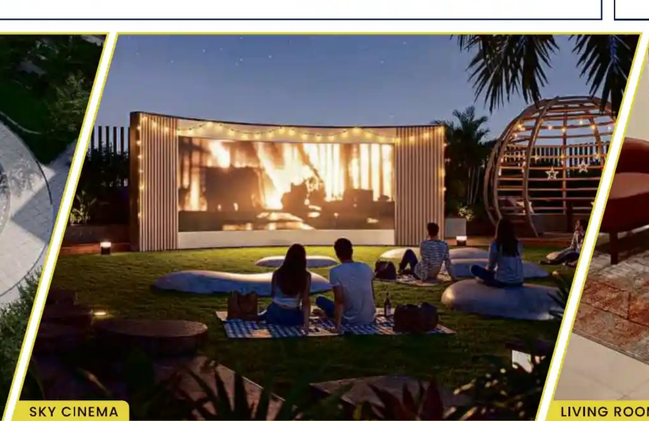
Connectivity

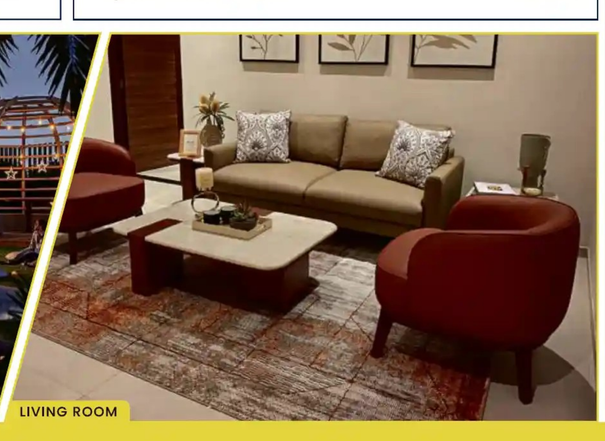
Mysore Road	5 mins
Challaghatta Metro	6 mins
Rajarajeshwari Hospital	7 mins
Don Bosco Institute	8 mins
NICE Road Junction	10 mins
RV College Belt	15 mins
Global Tech Park	15 mins
Gopalan Arcade Mall	18 mins

Location Map




SWIMMING POOL


SKY CINEMA


LIVING ROOM

WHY CASAGRAND?

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CASAGRAND building aspirations

*Based on CBRE report 2024

Casagrand Premier Builder Limited is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offer of its equity shares and has filed a draft red herring prospectus ("DRHP") with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The DRHP is available on the website of our Company, at www.casagrand.co.in, the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the book running lead managers Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited and DAM Capital Advisors Limited at www.motilaloswalgroup.com and www.dam-capital.in respectively, and the websites of the stock exchange(s) at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com, respectively. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see "Risk Factors" of the RHP, when available. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision.

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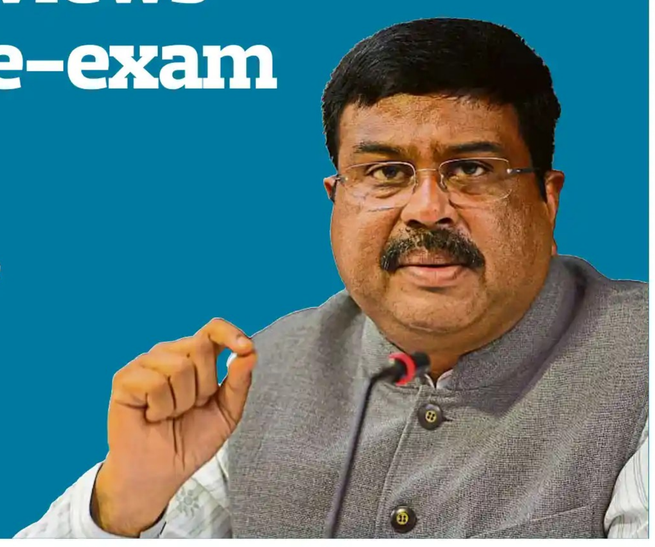
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Pradhan reviews NEET-UG re-exam security

Orders crackdown on fake Telegram channels
Page 10



B'luru civic polls: SC extends final deadline till Aug 31

Court agrees that census, SIR resulted in staff shortage

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted extension till August 31 to the Karnataka government and the State Election Commission for concluding elections to the five municipal corporations in Bengaluru, stating that no further extension would be granted.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi extended the previous deadline from June 30 to August 31, upon hearing senior advocate A M Singhvi appearing for the Karnataka government.

Both the state government and the SEC filed pleas seeking three more months for the purpose, stating that the staff would be busy in conducting census, Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, Class X and XII board examinations, etc.

Karnataka's Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty and advocate Nishanth Patil also appeared for the state government.

They sought modification of the apex court's order of January 12, which directed for completing the polls by June 30.

Singhvi contended there was difficulty in arranging the state government staff due to the SIR exercise. Opposing the plea, senior advocate K Parameshwara submitted that the previous extension was granted after an undertaking that the polls would be conducted by June 30.

In its order, the bench said: "Taking into consideration the attenuating circumstances that have been placed before us, the time-period for conduct of the subject-elections is extended up to August 31."

> "Taking into consideration the attenuating circumstances that have been placed before us, the time-period for conduct of the subject-elections is extended up to August 31. However, it is made amply clear that no further extension shall be granted in this regard.
> **Supreme Court**

▸ GBA polls, Page 7

Final notification for Bidadi township by June-end: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government will issue the final notification for acquiring about 7,481 acres for the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) near Bidadi by the end of June, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Wednesday.

The deputy chief minister asserted that a majority of the farmers were in favour of the project despite opposition from a section of landowners and political leaders.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar

Addressing reporters, Shivakumar said around 80% of farmers have extended support to the township project and are requesting the government for faster compensation and implementation.

"We will begin issuing village-wise final notifications over the next one and a half months. Compensation will be provided up front for farmers who are in favour of the acquisition. If the landowners do not agree, we will deposit the money in the court and go ahead with the project," Shivakumar said.

▸ Bidadi, Page 7

India, Italy agree on roadmap for defence industrial ties

Will promote co-production & co-development of defence products

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and Italy agreed on a roadmap for defence industrial cooperation and inked pacts for cooperation in maritime transport and exploration of critical minerals, as Narendra Modi and Giorgia Meloni – the prime ministers of the two nations – met in Rome on Wednesday and elevated the bilateral relations to a special strategic partnership.

The two governments made a joint declaration of intent on the facilitation of mobility of nurses from India to Italy. The two leaders welcomed the discussions between relevant agencies of India and Italy for a Social Security Agreement.

Modi and Meloni set the target to raise bilateral trade from the current annual level of €14 billion ($15.2 billion) to €20 billion ($21.7 billion) by 2029.

"Close cooperation in the fields of defence and security is a symbol of our deep mutual trust," Modi said as he and Meloni addressed journalists.

"Not only between our armed forces, but cooperation between our defence industries is also increasing. Our roadmap for defence industrial cooperation clears the way for co-development and co-production," said Modi, who landed in Rome on Tuesday for the last leg of his five-nation tour.

The agreement on the defence industrial roadmap came less than four months after Adani Defence and Aerospace signed an MoU with Leonardo S.p.A of Italy, to establish an integrated helicopter manufacturing ecosystem in India.

▸ Italy, Page 7

Delhi-Rome relations

- Target for 2029: Annual bilateral trade of **€20 bn**
- Italy **India's 4th-largest** trading partner in EU
- Indian community in Italy: **1,86,833,** largest Indian diaspora group in EU
- Over **5,100** Indian students in Italian universities

€14.25 bn Bilateral trade in 2025	**€8.55 bn** India's exports to Italy
€5.70 bn Italian exports to India	Increase of **9.42%** over 2024

PM Modi gifts a pack of toffees to Italian PM Giorgia Meloni. PTI

Unrelated Parle stock jumps

Shares of Parle Industries hit upper circuit climbing by 5% after a video of PM Modi gifting a packet of 'Melody' candy, manufactured by Parle Products, to his Italian counterpart went viral. Parle Industries has no connection with the Melody candy. Its core business is real estate development.
Details on Page 13

Modi, Shah & RSS 'traitors', 'economic storm' coming: Rahul

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday launched a sharp broadside on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and the RSS, terming them "traitors" who are destroying all constitutional institutions and have sold the country to select industrialists.

He also targeted the Union government over its handling of the economy amid the West Asia war, warning that an "economic storm is coming our way".

Addressing an event in his Raebareli constituency, Rahul accused the PM of "attacking the Constitution 24 hours a day".

"Those who disregard the Constitution are called traitors.....I have no hesitation in saying this," he said.

▸ Rahul, Page 7

Submit proposal to hire 15k teachers, CM tells edu dept

BENGALURU DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed the School Education and Literacy Department officials to submit a proposal to the Finance Department for the recruitment of 15,000 teachers.

During a review meeting on Wednesday, the CM said that the shortage of teachers is impacting the quality of education at government schools and it should be addressed immediately.

The officials informed the CM that they were waiting for resolution of the internal reservation issue, and since it has been resolved, they will submit the proposal and also issue a notification. According to the officials, they will complete the recruitment process within 100 days after getting a nod from the Finance Department.

A recent report from NITI Aayog highlighted the shortage of teachers. The sanctioned strength of teachers is 1,78,935 for 41,088 government schools; however, 38,163 posts are vacant, according to the report.

On the Karnataka Public Schools, the CM said all 800 schools should be ready in two years and directed the officials to take necessary steps to provide transportation to the children.

Bowring wall collapse: CS orders criminal case against contractor

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has directed the Health and Family Welfare department to lodge a criminal case against a contractor who had dumped debris near the compound wall of the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, which allegedly contributed to the wall's collapse on April 29 that killed seven people.

The chief secretary had visited the spot on May 14 to ascertain the cause of the collapse. According to her report, illegal dumping of debris had resulted in an increase in pressure on the wall and this was the main cause of its collapse.

Details on Page 3

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Quickly

After Dubare tragedy, govt bans open jeep safaris

The death of a woman tourist in Dubare elephant camp recently has prompted the Forest Department to adopt a cautious approach and the officials were directed on Wednesday not to use open vehicles for wildlife safaris.
Details on Page 6

Rs 35-cr drug smuggling ring busted; 8 held

Narcotics worth Rs 35 crore has been seized and eight suspects arrested after the Bengaluru police busted an interstate smuggling ring. The seized drugs include 17.5 kg of MDMA, valued at Rs 17.50 crore, with a street value almost double of that. Police also impounded two cars.
Details on Page 3

Iran says US wants to 'start new war'

Iran's chief negotiator said Wednesday the United States wanted to restart the Middle East war after President Donald Trump said he would attack again unless Tehran agreed a peace deal. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who warned of a "forceful response", was speaking after Iran's Revolutionary Guards said any renewed war would spread far beyond the Middle East.
Details on Page 12

US lost 42 aircraft in Iran war: Report

At least 42 aircraft of the United States, including fighter jets and drones, were lost or damaged during Operation Epic Fury launched on February 28 targeting Iran, according to a US report.

AxisCades Aerospace to invest Rs 6k cr in B'luru

MB Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based aerospace and defence company AxisCades Aerospace Infrastructure Private Limited is set to invest Rs 6,000 crore in Karnataka, in three phases, to set up an integrated hub for manufacturing, testing, and maintenance in aerospace, defence, semiconductor, and AI innovation sectors. According to Industries Minister MB Patil, the company's senior executives held a detailed discussion with the government on Wednesday and shared their plans. The company has sought 200 acres of land from the government at Devanahalli.
Details on Page 13

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Bowring wall collapse: Case against contractor

Illegal dumping of debris led to tragedy: Chief secy's report

The site of the compound wall collapse at Bowring Hospital in Shivajinagar, where seven people died. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has directed the Health and Family Welfare Department to file a criminal case against the contractor accused of illegally dumping nearly 3,600 cubic metres of debris and construction waste near the compound wall of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar.

Shalini visited the spot on May 14 to ascertain the cause behind the collapse of the hospital's compound wall on April 29 during heavy pre-monsoon rain.

Seven people died and nine were injured in the incident.

Her report stated that the illegal and unscientific dumping of debris increased pressure on the compound wall by up to 3,305 lb/ft and was the main reason for the collapse.

"In 2019, a private company was awarded the tender to construct a new medical college in the hospital premises. The contractor is said to have dumped the debris near the compound wall that collapsed.

"Though the work order issued by the Health Department included a clause saying that the debris and construction waste should be transported at least 30 km away from the city limits and Rs 11.54 lakh was earmarked for the same, the contractor has dumped the waste within the hospital premises," the report noted.

The report also recommended strict action against four engineers from the Health Department, who were in charge of the project when the debris and construction waste were dumped at the site.

To examine lapses, Shalini directed the Urban Development Department (UDD) to submit records related to the Occupancy Certificate and Completion Certificate issued for the project, taken up in 2019.

She also sought details on how the city corporation issued the certificates without verifying the transportation of construction waste.

The 200-metre-long compound wall should be rebuilt scientifically, she said.

She also instructed corporation officials to clean the stormwater drains adjoining the compound wall.

CHIEF SECY ORDERS ACTION

- Action recommended against four Health Department engineers who oversaw the project during the dumping of waste.
- Urban Development Department asked to submit records related to Occupancy and Completion Certificates issued for the project.
- Probe into how civic authorities cleared the project without verifying transportation and disposal of construction waste.
- Corporation officials instructed to clear stormwater drains adjoining the hospital premises to prevent flooding and pressure buildup.
- Directions issued to scientifically rebuild the 200-metre-long compound wall.

Bengaluru police crack Rs 35-cr drug racket; 8 held

3 foreign nationals held in drug syndicate linked to Delhi & Haryana

Seized narcotics displayed by the city police. PHOTO: BENGALURU CITY POLICE

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a coordinated operation, Bengaluru police's North Division arrested eight suspects, busted an interstate drug smuggling ring, and seized narcotics worth Rs 35 crore.

The arrested are 50-year-old West Delhi resident Reena Yadav, 66-year-old New Delhi resident Debashish Banerjee, 30-year-old Delhi resident Dheeraj, 34-year-old Delhi resident Obianuju Rita Okeke, 30-year-old Bengaluru resident Mohammed Mansoor P, 38-year-old Dakshina Kannada resident Abdul Sammed, Senegal national Danfa Gerald, and Tanzania national Magreth Liginiko Chale.

"Six, including three foreigners, were arrested from Delhi. Two were locals. This is one of the largest seizures by our city police team overseen by Joint Commissioner of Police, West, C Vamsi Krishna.

"As per the information, the case was detected after a painstaking investigation of a recent case in Yeshwantpur, where nine people were arrested," Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

The seized drugs include 17.5 kg of MDMA valued at Rs 17.50 crore, with almost double the street value. Police also impounded two cars.

Investigators from the Hebbal police station received information on May 11 that three suspects in a car near Anandnagar were selling banned narcotics.

"Police conducted a raid and took three persons, including one woman, into custody. During interrogation, one man and the woman confessed that they had purchased the banned narcotic substance MDMA at a low price from an unknown person in Delhi and were selling it to the public at a higher price," city police said in a statement. Police recovered 4.180 kg of MDMA and a car used in the offence.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that MDMA was stored at the residence of one of the suspects in Chikkanayakanahalli. Accordingly, police seized 10.120 kg of MDMA on May 14.

Four more suspects were later detained in Haryana and Delhi. These included one foreigner and two foreign women accused of supplying MDMA, along with one Delhi resident, police said.

During interrogation, the four accused confessed to supplying MDMA in the case.

On May 17, the suspects were brought to Bengaluru on transit remand. Based on their interrogation, another suspect was arrested in Hennur and police recovered 3.2 kg of MDMA from his residence.

Pension clearance: Official held for taking Rs 20k bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Lokayukta police have arrested a 50-year-old official for allegedly accepting a Rs 20,000 bribe to process pension-related work.

The accused, identified as Renukaradhya KS, is a case worker attached to the Karnataka Public School near Minerva Circle, officials said.

The Lokayukta police trapped the accused following a complaint lodged by a resident of Electronics City.

According to officials, the accused had allegedly demanded Rs 20,000 to forward the complainant's service book along with the necessary documents for further processing of pension benefits. On Wednesday, the accused was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe amount. A case has been registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

National Symposium: On use of Kannada and its role; Baraguru Ramachandrappa, Naveen Joseph A and others to participate; Organised by Kannada study centre, Dr Manmohan Singh Bangalore University; Seminar Hall, Jnanajyothi Auditorium; 10 am.

Annual day: 'Sandhyakalarava'; Organised by Seshadripuram Evening College; Aarenahalli Dharmendra Kumar, Roopika, PC Narayana and others to take part; College premises, Seshadripuram; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Veena performance: Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Jayanagar; from 5.15 pm onwards.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Thunderstorm with rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	32.2°C
Minimum	22.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	60%
Sunset (May 21)	6:39 pm
Sunrise (May 22)	5:53 am
Moonrise	9:15 am
Moonset	10:37 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Summer special train

BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways will run summer special trains between SMVT Bengaluru and Tiruchchirappalli on May 26 to clear the extra rush of passengers.

Train number 06007 will depart from Tiruchchirappalli at 6.15 am and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 1.45 am. In the return direction, train number 06008 will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 3 pm and reach Tiruchchirappalli at 10.30 pm.

Marriage refusal sparks high-tension drama in Anekal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Rescue personnel climbed the tower and counselled the man for several hours.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel and locals gather near the high-tension tower during the rescue operation.

Tension gripped Anekal for a while after a 25-year-old man climbed a high-tension electric tower when his girlfriend reportedly refused to marry him.

Police said the incident took place on Wednesday afternoon.

Somashekhar, a resident of Chinnaiyana Palya, was reportedly in a relationship with his relative for the past three years.

Upset over his alcohol addiction, the woman refused to continue the relationship and expressed unwillingness to marry him.

Dejected over her decision, Somashekhar created a ruckus near the woman's house before climbing a nearby high-tension electric tower.

He refused to come down, insisting that he would do so only if the woman arrived at the spot and agreed to marry him.

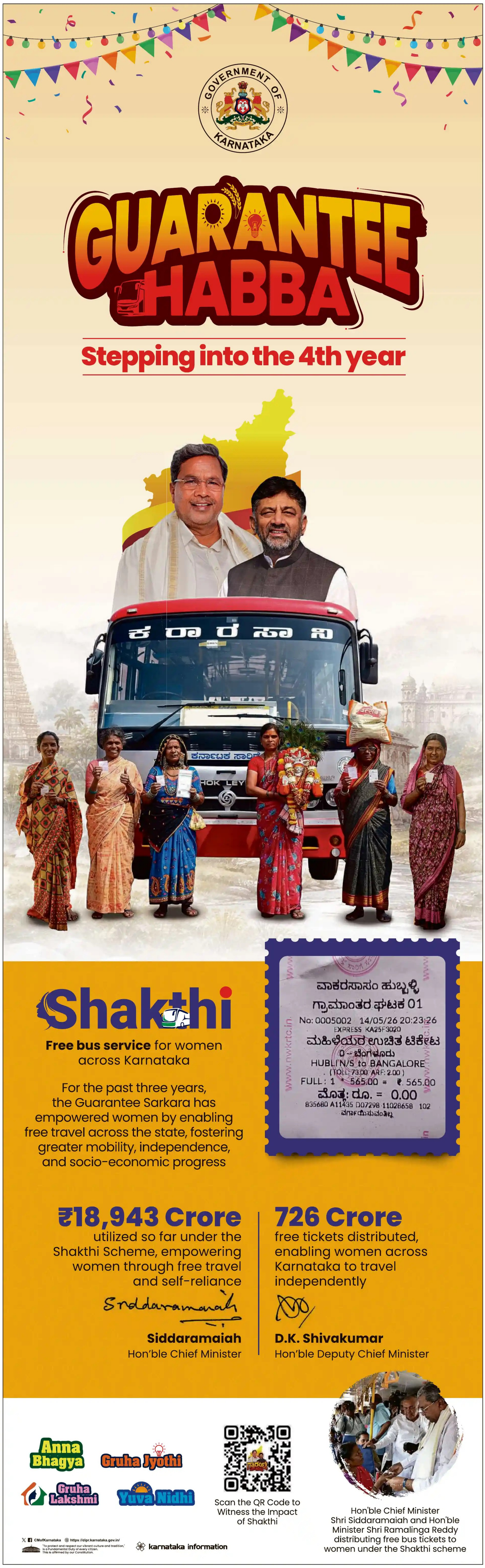
The incident triggered panic among local residents, who gathered near the spot in large numbers.

Anekal police, Fire and Emergency Services personnel, and power grid staff rushed to the spot and undertook a rescue operation.

After some time, fire personnel climbed the tower and counselled Somashekhar for several hours.

Rescue personnel also gave him juice and water after he appeared exhausted and dehydrated during the standoff atop the tower.

After nearly four hours of efforts, the rescue team brought him down safely and shifted him to a nearby hospital for first aid. However, no case has been registered over the incident, Anekal police said.


GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
GUARANTEE HABBA
Stepping into the 4th year
Shakthi
Free bus service for women across Karnataka
For the past three years, the Guarantee Sarkara has empowered women by enabling free travel across the state, fostering greater mobility, independence, and socio-economic progress
₹18,943 Crore
utilized so far under the Shakthi Scheme, empowering women through free travel and self-reliance
Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
726 Crore
free tickets distributed, enabling women across Karnataka to travel independently
D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Anna Bhagya
Gruha Jyothi
Gruha Lakshmi
Yuva Nidhi
Scan the QR Code to Witness the Impact of Shakthi
Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah and Hon'ble Minister Shri Ramalinga Reddy distributing free bus tickets to women under the Shakthi scheme
CMofKarnataka https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/
"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition," is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. This is affirmed by our Constitution.
karnataka information

OFFLINE VS ONLINE

Pharma strike gets patchy response as most medical stores stay open

A medical store remains shut in Jayanagar on Wednesday as part of a nationwide strike against unregulated online medicine delivery apps. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Associations claim 5,000 pharmacies shut, but many retailers keep shutters up fearing loss

BENGALURU, DHNS

The nationwide protest against online sale of medicines received a lukewarm response in the city on Thursday, with most pharmacies and medical stores continuing to function despite the shutdown call by several chemists' and druggists' associations.

The protest sought a ban on online sale of medicines, with traders alleging that several platforms were violating rules under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Rajeev Gowda, a pharmacist in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, said: "We are against the online sale of medicine, but shutting down our shops will not help us in pushing the government to withdraw online delivery. If we are shut, online platforms will have more orders."

Manjula K, a pharmacist in Jayanagar, said: "If small shops like ours are closed there would not be much of an impact, we would rather have our business open."

Ramesh Babu CV, Secretary of the Bengaluru Pharma Retailers and Distributors Forum, said the city has around 8,000 pharmacies, including nearly 1,000 chain outlets such as Apollo Pharmacy and Aster Pharmacy.

"Out of the 7,000 pharmacies only 2,000 are open in the city and most of them are lending support to the strike without closing down. Most distributors in the city are also closed," Babu added.

Discounts on apps

Rajashekar, another pharmacist who shut his shop, said pharmacies could compete with apps in delivery, but not in discounts.

"They give up to 20% discount. We can only manage to give around 10% discount, which is enough for consumers to choose online platforms over us," he said.

Home delivery services

Some pharmacists said many neighbourhood stores have now started home delivery services and accept orders through WhatsApp in an attempt to compete with online platforms.

Sridhar Reddy, a pharmacist, said: "Though we are a relatively small shop, we provide home delivery in the three-kilometre radius and to our regular customers, we are trying to do better with deliveries because of the apps."

Fake buyers vanish with Rs 3-cr gold haul; one arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: A gang of three allegedly escaped with 1.85 kg of gold jewellery worth Rs 3 crore after posing as wholesale buyers and luring a jewellery shop manager in Malleswaram.

Police arrested prime accused, Paresh Soni, soon after the incident came to light. A team has been sent to Mumbai to nab two of his associates and recover the stolen jewellery.

Complainant Mahendra Kumar Jain, manager of Mehta Gold Pvt Ltd in Nagarathpet, said the accused contacted him on May 16 claiming they were from Mahi Enterprises.

Soni told Mahendra that the company was interested in purchasing gold jewellery in bulk and wanted to select designs.

Trusting him, Mahendra carried around 3 kg of gold ornaments on a bike to an office on Sampige Road in Malleswaram. There, he noticed a board bearing the name 'Lotus Jewellery' and went inside.

After examining the ornaments, Soni selected around 1.85 kg of jewellery and said he wanted to photograph the designs and prepare an inventory.

The ornaments were then handed over to a staff member, Chandrashekhar, who was seated inside a cabin.

However, Chandrashekhar disappeared with the jewellery on the pretext of taking photographs and preparing the inventory.

After some time, Mahendra checked on Soni and another staff member, Shyam, only to find that both had fled from the office.

Realising that the accused had stolen the jewellery, Mahendra rushed to the Malleswaram police station and filed a complaint, police said.

Based on CCTV footage and other technical evidence, Malleswaram police detained Soni for questioning. Efforts are on to trace the other accused, a police officer said.

East Corporation sets 20-day deadline for lake, STP works

Seeks real time sewage monitoring

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) Commissioner DS Ramesh chairs a review meeting on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

The Bengaluru East City Corporation on Wednesday reviewed the functioning of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and lake conservation works in the Mahadevapura and KR Puram assembly constituencies.

The corporation directed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to install a real-time sensor-based monitoring system to track the quantity, flow, and quality of water entering lakes and make the information publicly accessible.

Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh chaired the meeting.

Officials informed the commissioner that treated water from the BWSSB's sewage treatment plant would soon be released into Kowdenahalli Lake through a trenchless pipeline system to avoid road damage.

BWSSB officials were instructed to secure the required permissions and complete the work within 20 days.

At Vengayyana Lake, officials said treated water and untreated sewage flowing through stormwater drains were currently mixing before entering the lake, resulting in pollution.

The commissioner directed officials to install separate pipelines for treated water and sewage diversion and complete the work within 20 days.

In Devarabeesanahalli, officials said a 1.3-MLD STP maintained by the Adarsha Residential Apartment Association was operational, while another 900-KLD STP was awaiting Consent for Operation clearance from the Pollution Control Board.

Once operational, sewage from nearby residential complexes would be diverted for treatment before being discharged into the lake.

During the meeting, the commissioner expressed concern over repeated incidents of road cutting on ITPL Road, Devasandra Road, Sarjapur Road, and Devarabeesanahalli without prior approval from the civic body.

Reviewing stormwater drain maintenance, officials said the East City Corporation has a 225-km drain network, of which 125 km has been converted into concrete drains.

The remaining 100 km of earthen drains are proposed for development under World Bank and government funding.

Dissatisfied with the pace of maintenance works, the commissioner instructed officials to submit daily maintenance reports.

North Corpn races to finish lake works ahead of monsoon

BENGALURU, DHNS: With monsoon approaching, the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) plans to complete pending sewage diversion works near Puttenahalli Lake within 10 days to prevent flooding in the area.

Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar on Wednesday inspected flood-prone stretches near Ramanashree California Gardens and Esteem Northwood apartment complexes adjoining Puttenahalli Lake, where residents faced severe inundation during the heavy rains of 2024.

The rajakaluve connected to the lake had been closed after sewage water began flowing into the drain.

The matter had also reached the National Green Tribunal (NGT) as the area falls under Forest Department jurisdiction, resulting in an interim stay order.

Subsequently, underground sewage pipeline works were taken up after securing the required permissions.

The corporation said nearly 90% of the sewage diversion work in the rajakaluve has been completed.

During the inspection, the commissioner instructed engineers to finish the remaining work within 10 days and ensure permanent measures are put in place to avoid water stagnation during the monsoon.

Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar inspects flood-prone stretches adjoining Puttenahalli Lake on Wednesday.

The remaining work to reconnect the rajakaluve to Puttenahalli Lake is yet to begin.

Officials said the Forest Department has now granted permission for diversion works aimed at preventing flooding in the area during heavy rainfall.

Representatives from the Forest Department and the BWSSB were present during the inspection.

Lured by free Netflix, store manager loses Rs 1 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 35-year-old store manager lost Rs 1 lakh after downloading a mobile application called 'Tuby', which promised free access to OTT platforms.

Syed Wasim Ahmad, a resident of Richmond Town and who works at a perfume shop in Shivajinagar, came across the link on Instagram while watching reels.

He downloaded the Tuby app on May 18.

Soon after he installed the application, fraudsters gained access to his banking details and siphoned off Rs 1 lakh through multiple unauthorised transactions.

He immediately approached the bank and managed to transfer the remaining amount to his father's account before approaching the Ashok Nagar police and filing a case.

Fake OTT subscriptions

"While Bengaluru continues to report one of the highest numbers of cybercrime cases in recent data, cybercriminals are targeting people through fake OTT subscription offers and third-party applications. Fraudsters lure users with promises of free or low-cost access to movies, web series, and television content, but these malicious apps are designed to steal sensitive information, including banking credentials and OTPs," said a cyber crime expert.

"Before downloading any application from the Play Store, users should carefully check the reviews, ratings and number of downloads. Fraudulent applications often have fake reviews and suspicious permissions. People should avoid installing apps that seek unnecessary access to SMS, contacts, gallery, or banking-related information," said Siddu Malli, Commando from I4C.

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) is a central government agency under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs that deals with cybercrime in India.

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Youth Congress protest today: Traffic curbs near Freedom Park

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ahead of a protest organised by the Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress at Freedom Park from 7 am to 4 pm on Thursday, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has issued an advisory and announced traffic diversions to ensure smooth movement in the Central Business District (CBD).

Vehicles heading towards Freedom Park from Mysore Bank Circle via KG Road and intending to take a right turn must use the Maharani Underpass Road on Palace Cross Road.

Vehicular movement between Freedom Park Junction and Kanakadasa Circle has been temporarily restricted in both directions, and no vehicles will be allowed on the stretch.

Motorists travelling from Khode Junction towards KR Circle are advised to use Old JD(S) Office Road to avoid congestion, as protest participants are expected to walk from the railway station via the flyover road.

The road from Subbanna Junction towards MTR Junction, currently a one-way stretch, has been temporarily converted into a two-way road. Motorists heading towards Gandhinagar may use this route.

Parking of all types of vehicles has been prohibited from Khode Junction to Maharani Junction, and on V Ramachandra Road, Kalidasa Road, Palace Road and KG Road.

ENDLESS CYCLE

Freshly asphalted, quickly dug up

BENGALURU, DHNS

Freshly laid asphalt on MG Road was dug up by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) workers on Wednesday, just weeks after the stretch had been resurfaced, triggering criticism over the lack of coordination between civic agencies.

The digging work near a manhole on the busy road drew the attention of commuters and pedestrians, many of whom questioned why a newly asphalted stretch had to be cut open so soon.

Officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said they were unaware of the work being carried out. An engineer from the Bengaluru Central City Corporation said no permission had been sought for the digging.

BWSSB officials, however, defended the work, saying the city corporation had asphalted over a manhole cover during resurfacing work.

According to BWSSB officials, a complaint had been received regarding a blockage in the sanitary line, forcing workers to remove a portion of the asphalt to access the manhole.

BWSSB workers dig up a freshly asphalted stretch on MG Road on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Officials said only a small section around the manhole had been dug up and assured that the stretch would be levelled again after the work was completed.

S. E. RAILWAY E– TENDER

Tender Notice No. PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/19 **Dated: 19/05/2026**

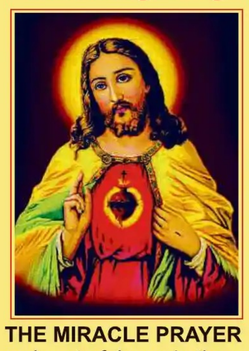
The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be Closed at 14.00 hrs.

SL. No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Qty.	EMD (in Rs.)
1	29263282	10/07/26	Set of Pins & Bushes for Brake Rigging of WAP7 Locos.	229 Set.	2,99,480/-
2	29263172	13/07/26	Secondary spring.		9,81,030/-
3	29263009	13/07/26	PUSH-PULL ROD (TRACTION BAR) etc.	184 Nos.	1,03,350/-
4	29263308	15/07/26	Gear Case Assembly for 3-Phase locos.	290 Set.	3,65,520/-
5	29264979	16/07/26	AXLE BOX BEARING (CRU150) etc.	1040 Nos.	5,59,610/-
6	29263756	17/07/26	Axle box complete without bearings etc.	713 Nos.	6,55,370/-
7	29265004	20/07/26	Main compressor (Oil Lubricated) including motor etc.	20 Nos.	2,35,350/-
8	29263312	04/08/26	Set of Kit for EP Relay valve.	1482 Set.	17,30,100/-
9	29263269	05/08/26	Set of Labyrinth Ring etc.	399 Set.	6,11,550/-
10	25263571	06/08/26	AOH Maintenance Schedule of N32 Tap Changer.	148 Set.	2,83,470/-
11	29263676	07/08/26	SET OF WIPER ARM ASSEMBLY COMPLETE.	922 Set.	2,17,570/-
12	29263787	10/08/26	Overhauling kit for LRU, Control Portion.	121 Set.	3,65,930/-
13	29263788	10/08/26	Overhauling kit for LRU.	100 Set.	4,88,570/-
14	81263056	08/06/26	Set of cleaning chemicals for operation of mechanized laundry etc.	50 Set.	3,10,530/-
15	5626RGC_ Subsidiary_ LED	29/06/26	Running Contract/Price Agreement for supply of Subsidiary LED (Shunt, Route & Calling on) etc.	Shunt=4000 Nos. Route =5000 Nos. Calling on =1500 Nos.	13,32,600/-
16	42255018A	08/06/26	PORTABLE LED LIGHT TOWER WITH GENSET etc.	16 Nos.	1,43,360/-
17	40265043	09/06/26	3 x 400 Sq. mm, 19/33 KV Grade (Earthed System), HT, Three Core Power Cable etc.	4700 Mtr.	3,32,260/-
18	81261807	08/06/26	FOG SIGNAL DETONATING etc.	47000 Nos.	3,76,980/-
19	45263191	09/06/26	Supply of Brushless Sensorless DC Railway Carriage Fan etc.	3930 Nos.	1,98,480/-
20	45263167	10/06/26	Supply of CONDENSER FAN MOTOR FOR EOG-LHB COACHES etc.	1310 Nos.	1,69,390/-
21	45263167	11/06/26	Battery fuse Box positive (+ve) etc.	1572 Nos.	1,76,810/-
22	33263378	12/08/26	SECONDARY VERTICAL DAMPER etc.	2700 Nos.	3,03,950/-
23	33261487	06/08/26	Secondary Spring for LHB Coaches (outer) etc.	230 Nos.	2,32,320/-
24	33263084	01/07/26	Secondary Spring for LHB Coaches (Inner) etc.	276 Nos.	1,15,950/-
25	81261800	08/06/26	Compressed Oxygen Gas etc.	312364 CUM.	2,21,160/-
26	81261807	08/06/26	FOG SIGNAL DETONATING etc.	47000 Nos.	3,76,980/-
27	40265032	18/06/26	Supply of HT 6.35/11Kv, three core XLPE ISI marked cable etc.	4000 MTR.	1,01,480/-
28	45253166D	16/06/26	CONTACTOR 3 POLE, 16 AMP CAPACITY SUITABLE etc.	3978 Nos.	1,01,210/-
29	47255028	12/06/26	Supply of Traction Transformer Complete with accessories etc.	01 Nos.	1,49,800/-
30	42251597	11/06/26	2 X 18W/20W LED TUBE LIGHT WITH FITTINGS.	11052 Nos.	1,14,770/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full Details/Description/Specification of the tenders and submit their Bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any Corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR- 196)**

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving



THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear heart of Jesus in the past I have asked many favours. This time I ask you this special one (mention favour). Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your own favour not mine. Amen. Say this prayer three times for three days and your favour will be granted. Never been known to fail. Must promise publication of prayer.

- Prema & Family

CORRIGENDUM NO. 02 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2026/APR/02 DATED: 20-04-2026

Corrigendum- 02 for **Tender No. CE-CON-DK-EPC-2026-02** has been published. For details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/CON/NL Project, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

(Construction Organisation)

Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2026-27/06 Dt: 15.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
Bifurcation of elementary section and modification of umbrella structures at Somanayakkanpatti, Yesvantpur, Hindupur, Gauribidanur, Rangepalli, Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam, Basampalle and Makkajipalli stations	Rs. 91,03,534.98/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 05.06.2026**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru

PUB/134/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

ICAR - National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology

Adugodi, Bengaluru-560 030

Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Government of India

NIANP/ADV-Project-II-Estt/2026

A walk in interview will be held on **29.05.2026(Friday) at 10.30 AM** at this Institute for the selection of one Senior Research Fellow under the project entitled "Cyropreservation of embryos and semen of sheep and goats for the genetic improvement of non-descript breeds to improve farmers' livelihood" for a period upto **September, 2026.** Emoluments: **Rs. 37,000/-per month plus HRA.** Age Limit: 35 years for Men and 40 years for Women on the date of Interview (relaxation for SC/ST/OBC/PH candidates as per GOI / ICAR rules). Interested candidates must bring all original certificates/testimonials at the time of the walk-in interview. For the application format and detailed advertisement, please visit the institute website: **www.nianp.res.in**

Sd/-

Administrative Officer

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division

Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer

Electric Loco Shed, Erode

E-Tender Notice

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	Description of Work
SA_A_RS_ED_0T_26_27_8, Dt.19-05-2026	Works contract for Modification works for installing MPCS Version 3 in electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.
SA_A_RS_ED_0T_26_27_9, Dt.19-05-2026	Repair / Reconditioning / Overhauling of M/s.ELGI make 1750 LPM Oil lubricated compressor (Model No. RR20100 CG (M)) of electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at https://www.ireps.gov.in

DEE/RS/ED

For Sr.DEE/RS/ED

Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Rehabilitation/Repair/Replacement of cooling tower foundation, TSS/RSS building and other miscellaneous work between Km 7/14 to Km 16/18 (Central to Mahanayak Uttam Kumar) of Blue Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata.". **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 2,30,29,751.72. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 4,60,600/-. **Completion Period**: 09 (Nine) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 16.06.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2573-2026-(Open)

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

ENGINEERING WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. DCBL/03/ 2026/MLG, Dated: 15-05-2026. Open E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No.:** DCBL042026MLG; **Name of works:** Maintenance of Intelligent Water Level Monitoring Instruments (WLMI) for two years for identified Important/Major bridges under Bridge-Line Unit of N.F. Railway (Remote site annual maintenance & technical supports and hardware AMC for two years at various Bridges over NFR). **Approximate Tender Value:** ₹5,28,65,703/-; **Bid Security:** ₹10,57,300/-. **Date of closing of Tender:** 08-06-2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date of Opening of Tenders:** 08-06-2026 at 15.05 hrs. at Deputy Chief Engineer/ Bridge-Line/Maligaon, Guwahati- 781011 (Assam). For details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. CE/Bridge-Line/Maligaon

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/183/2026 dated 15.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of Work	Approx.Value
Annual Maintenance of IPMS Software at South Western Railway construction Office Bengaluru,	Rs. 37,80,000/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 09.06.2026**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/135/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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The Siddaramaiah-led state government's initiatives and drives to strengthen resources for the masses has led to higher standards of living and better infrastructure that drives economic growth

20 years of guarantees rural livelihood Destroyed by BJP, AN INSULT to GANDHI
Protect Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Protect Employment Rights Raj BhavanChalo
20 ವರ್ಷದ MGNREGA ಯೋಜನೆ ಬಿಜೆಪಿಯಿಂದ ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿಗೆ ಅವಮಾನ
Mahatma Gandhi's ideology
Mahatma Gandhi's footprints

Three years of citizen-centric administration

The state government's three-year tenure has come to be known as a 'citizen-centric administration' drawing widespread acclaim for its progressive approach to development and able administration. The state's pioneering welfare guarantee schemes are today viewed as a model for the rest of the nation.

The Congress-led government in Karnataka, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, has completed three years. Propelled into office in 2023 by a commanding electoral majority, the administration enters its fourth year with a series of high-profile policy initiatives. The implementation of five landmark welfare guarantee schemes is proof of this government's commitment to poverty eradication and social justice. Alongside its focus on welfare, the government has sought to position the state as an economic powerhouse through a twin focus on industrial progress and large-scale infrastructure development.

Revolution of guarantees

The defining achievement of the Congress government's three years in power remains the roll-out of its five flagship welfare guarantees - a campaign promise that has transformed into a massive state-wide operation. Funded by over Rs 50,000 crore annually, the initiatives are credited with bolstering the household finances of millions of families across Karnataka.

Important among these successes is the highly popular Shakti Scheme which grants women free travel aboard state-run busses. Over the past three years, the initiative has seen immense take-up, significantly cutting commuting costs for working women and students alike. This surge in mobility has had a noticeable effect on the local economy, driving up commercial and social activity across rural regions, tourist hotspots and religious pilgrimage sites. The scheme has significantly eased the financial burden on working women and students by eliminating their daily commuting costs.

Running alongside is the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme, which has established itself as the largest direct cash transfer programme in the country. By depositing Rs 2,000 every month directly into the bank accounts of an estimated 1.20 crore woman heads of households, the initiative has significantly boosted the financial independence of women, particularly across rural communities.

Expanding its welfare net further, the government has successfully implemented the Anna Bhagya Scheme which provides 10 kg of food grains monthly to every individual in the below-poverty-line (BPL) families. Supplementary to the central government's allocation, the state has managed to alleviate hunger among impoverished households by directly transferring cash equivalent to the remaining 5 kg of rice into beneficiaries' accounts, while adapting the scheme periodically to remain citizen-friendly.

In a bid to tackle malnutrition, the government also plans to incorporate the Indira Kit into this programme in the near future.

Simultaneously, the Gruha Jyothi initiative has delivered a substantial boost to the monthly budgets of middle and low income households by offering up to 200 units of free domestic electricity per month. This has resulted in crores of consumers across the state receiving zero electricity bills.

On the employment front, the Yuva Nidhi Scheme, designed to provide crucial financial aid to unemployed graduates and diploma holders actively seeking work, has similarly achieved positive traction.

Land guarantee now

Building upon these five core pre-election promises, the government has introduced a sixth initiative, the Land Guarantee Scheme as an unexpected bonus. Officially launched at a recent Sadhana Samavesha at Haveri, this latest measure is being positioned as a revolutionary step aimed at distributing land to the landless while simultaneously resolving long-standing discrepancies in land records.

Investment drives

Moving past the welfare arena, the government has actively countered opposition claims that its guarantee schemes would drain the state exchequer, relying instead on strict fiscal discipline and aggressive investment drives to bolster the local economy. Over the last three years, Karnataka has successfully maintained its position at the forefront of industrial growth and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). A key driver of this momentum was the Global Investors' Meet, spearheaded by Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil, which secured an unprecedented success by netting investment agreements worth over Rs 10 lakh crores across various sectors. This massive influx of capital is projected to generate at least six lakh jobs in the near future.

Push for going digital

Driven by a push for complete digitalisation, the Revenue Department, under the leadership of Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, has overhauled its administrative framework to ensure a more transparent and corruption-free delivery of services. At the heart of this modernization drive is the Bhu Suraksha Scheme, an initiative designed to safeguard the assets of low-income families by digitising the land records of millions of households across every taluk in the state.

To combat the long-standing issue of fraudulent documentation, the government has introduced stringent verification measures, effectively curbing the creation of fake records by linking properties and Record of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC) documents with unique biometric identification.

Alongside these security updates, the department has rolled out further technological reforms -including the 'Land Beat' surveillance system and 'e-Pauti' digital tax receipts - marking a significant shift in how land administration and citizen services are managed in the state.

Brand Bengaluru

Concrete steps have been taken to elevate the capital's infrastructure to global standards under 'Brand Bengaluru' the flagship project of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Urban Development Minister D K Shivakumar. In a major bid to tackle the city's traffic congestion, a project to construct high-speed underground tunnels using international technology has been initiated.

Alongside this, work to extend the Namma Metro network to the city's outskirts and IT hubs has been accelerated, with several new routes already opened for public use. This expansion of the BMRCL network has significantly eased daily commutes for hundreds of thousands of commuters.

On the surface, a stringent campaign to eradicate potholes is underway, alongside the development of high-density corridors and the white-topping of major thoroughfares. Further, new waste-processing facilities have been established to provide a scientific and sustainable solution to the city's long-standing garbage disposal challenges.

Focus on health and education

Moving beyond urban development, the government has introduced major reforms across the healthcare and medical education sectors to ensure quality treatment remains accessible to low-income and middle-income citizens. Key initiatives include the comprehensive renovation of state-run hospitals, the stabilization of essential medicine supply chains and a targeted recruitment drive to fill thousands of vacant medical posts.

In education, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding is being actively leveraged to upgrade infrastructure in government schools, with dedicated financial grants earmarked to uplift educational institutions within the Kalyana Karnataka region.

Simultaneously, the Police Department has successfully curbed communal tensions across sensitive areas, particularly along the coastal belt. The deployment of capable officers to oversee law and order has led to a measurable decline in serious criminal offences, including murder and extortion, as part of a broader effort to foster a safer, more stable society.

Mirroring these developments, the government continues to report strong outcomes across other critical sectors - including irrigation, agriculture, horticulture, tourism and Panchayat Raj -reaffirming its commitment to public-centric governance in every project.

Guarantee schemes are helping crores across the state

The state government led by chief minister Siddaramaiah has spent Rs 1.34 lakh crores on the ambitious five guarantee schemes so far, turning them into models for other states to follow

The Congress government, which caused a sensation in national politics by introducing the five guarantee schemes, is also credited with their successful implementation. The central and other state governments, which originally opposed the initiative, are now implementing similar schemes in their states. Here is an overview of how the guarantees have been rolled out across the state so far.

The implementation of the five guarantee schemes which have emerged as the most prestigious and large-scale social security programmes not only in the history of Karnataka but also across the entire country has now reached an unprecedented milestone. According to the latest comprehensive data, the state government has so far spent a whopping Rs 1,34,688 crores directly on the welfare of the people to ensure the successful delivery of these five schemes.

Far from remaining as an announcement merely on paper, these funds have been delivered directly into the hands of eligible beneficiaries using the most advanced technology available and the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, significantly boosting the dynamism of the state's economy. This massive economic package has increased the purchasing power of both the economically-weaker sections and middle income group citizens across rural and urban areas, giving a new interpretation to the very concept of a welfare state.

Here's an overview of the schemes and their successful implementation:

Gruhalakshmi Scheme: A massive economic revolution in women empowerment

This scheme, which provides a monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,000 to female heads of households, has been recognised as the largest women-oriented cash transfer initiative in the country. Under this scheme, a total of 1.24 crore women have been registered as beneficiaries across the state, with funds transferred directly into their bank accounts.

The government's total expenditure on this scheme alone stands at a staggering Rs 69,783 crores till date. The fact that this initiative claims a lion's share of all five guarantees clearly reflects the government's commitment to priority for the financial independence of women.

Gruha Jyothi Yojana: Removing darkness with free electricity to every eligible household in the state

The Gruha Jyothi scheme has brought relief to every eligible household with free electricity up to a specified threshold limit. By the end of April 2026, a total of 1.64 crore domestic consumers across the state directly benefited from the initiative. The scheme has played a crucial role in improving the living standards of families. The state government has borne Rs 26,115 crore in subsidies to electricity supply companies so far. Relieved from the anxiety of monthly utility bills, crores of families are now focused on spending their savings on their children's education, healthcare and nutrition.

Implemented with utmost transparency through digital registration and automated billing, Gruha Jyothi has also significantly improved customer data management in the energy sector. In the coming days, the scheme will continue without any hindrances, with the data demonstrating that the state places just as much importance on domestic energy security as it does on industrial energy.

Shakti Yojana: Redefining ease of travel for women

The Shakti Yojana, which offers free travel for women on state-run buses, has unlocked unprecedented social mobility. The initiative has enabled women to participate more actively in education, employment, religious tourism and community life which has paved the way in being interpreted as an 'opportunity highway' being created for social activities.

Since its launch, women passengers have travelled a staggering 726 crore free journeys. To cover this massive scale of travel, the state government has incurred Rs 18,943 crores in reimbursing transport corporations.

The Shakti Yojana has indirectly revitalised the financial health of the state's transport corporations - KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC - while also popularising public transport. To manage the surge among women passengers, these corporations are expanding their fleets with new buses and recruiting additional staff to meet the additional demand. Far from just offering free travel, the scheme serves as a catalyst in empowerment, encouraging women to step beyond the four walls of their homes, build self-reliant lives and actively participate in the economic process. It has also proved to be a vital lifeline for young working women by entirely eliminating their daily commuting costs.

Anna Bhagya Yojana: Co-ordination of cash and food grains for a hunger-free state

The Anna Bhagya Yojana, which aims at ensuring food security for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, is working successfully in two different phases. In addition to the commitment of the Central Government to provide additional food grains alongside the quota, the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system implemented by the state government in the event of food grain shortages has become very popular. Until December 2024, a total of 72.02 crore beneficiaries have been provided cash assistance, towards which a total of Rs 11,821.17 crores has been transferred directly into bank accounts.

Alongside this, after ensuring the availability of food grains in the market, a vast quantity of food grains were distributed between February 2025 and April 2026. During this period, a total of 30.88 lakh metric tonnes of food grains reached the people of the state through fair price shops. The total cost borne by the government for this massive food grain distribution is Rs 7,076.04 crores.

Thus, when the direct cash transfer of Rs 11,821.17 crores and the food grain distribution cost of Rs 7,076.04 crore are combined, the total expenditure on the Anna Bhagya Yojana is Rs 18,897.21 crores. The scheme has been highly successful in raising nutritional levels across the state and ensuring that no family goes to bed hungry. Further, the introduction of technology into the ration system has successfully prevented leakages, ensuring that benefits reach the eligible families without pilferage.

Yuva Nidhi Scheme: Hand-holding for unemployed youth

The Yuva Nidhi Scheme, which was implemented to provide financial support to the youth in search of employment after completing their degrees and diplomas in the state, is moving forward successfully. A total of 3.38 lakh eligible young unemployed graduates and diploma holders of the state have registered under this scheme and received allowances during the period starting December 2023 to March 2026. Through this period, a total grant of Rs 950 crores has been released to support the aspirations of the youth.

A flood of projects

Guarantee implementation: Successful implementation of Gruhalakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, Shakti, Annabhagya and Yuvanidhi guarantees at a cost of Rs. 1.34 lakh crores in the state so far

Recruitment: Direct recruitment for 54,432 vacant posts in various departments in the state

Social survey: Social and educational survey to support progress

Internal reservation: Internal reservation has been implemented for some sub-castes in society.

Welfare of gig workers: For the first time in the country, the Social Security and Welfare Bill for Gig Workers has been approved

Chief Minister's Agriculture Expansion Scheme: Rs 100 crores allocated for value addition of agricultural crops and promotion of agricultural waste recycling

Boost for Nandini brand products: Nandini products through KMF being marketed globally.

Millet Hub launched: The Millet Hub is a single-window system to promote cereals and organic products

NABL accreditation: This accreditation received for all laboratories of the state government

Vasudhamrutha Programme: Facilitation of eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices

Plant Sanjeevini Scheme: This scheme launched for pest and disease control in crops

AI technology: Implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance efficiency of farmer call centres

Hi-tech Harvester Hub Project: Separate sowing and transplanting machines to reduce production costs in agriculture

Scheme for horticultural industries: Steps to establish horticulture-based industries in the department's nurseries on PPP model

Faladhara Programme: Faladhara camps will be set up in 1,000 villages to address livestock reproduction problems

Centre of Excellence: Establishment of a Centre of Excellence at Mangalore Fisheries College to assist the state's fisheries

Rs 30,000 crore agricultural loans: The target is to disburse agricultural loans of Rs 30,000 crores at zero interest rate to 38 lakh farmers in the state

District Cooperative Central Bank: Proposal made to RBI for establishment of a separate District Cooperative Central Bank in each district

Mekedaatu Project: Implementation of the Mekedaatu Project by obtaining clearance from the Union Environment Ministry

Rs 490 crores grant for Uduthore Halla Dam: This project will provide irrigation to 12,000 acres in Hanur Taluk of Chamarajanagar

Rs 237 crores for HN Valley: Grant for the 3rd phase of the Hebbal-Nagawara Valley project in Bengaluru

Grant for Vrishabhavati Valley: Rs 650 crores for the second phase of the Vrishabhavati Valley project to fill the lakes in the taluks around Bengaluru

User Associations: Establishment and strengthening of lake users associations with the aim of conserving lakes

Power to KPS: Rs 3,900 crores assistance for the opening of Karnataka Public Schools in the state

Steps to fill posts: Early recruitment of teachers in KPS schools

Grant for repairs: Rs 640 crores for construction and repair of additional rooms, toilets, in schools across the state

AI Digital Tutor: Self-learning digital tutor facility has been provided to 12.28 lakh students in the state using AI technology in collaboration with IIT Dharwad

Teacher recruitment: 15,000 vacant teacher posts in the state have been filled

Appointment of Mental Health Counsellors: One Mental Health Counsellor has been appointed at each of the 204 BRC centres to relieve stress among students

Grant for Sainik Schools: Rs 10 crores grant for the reconstruction of the Sainik School hostel in Vijayapura

Measures to protect children: Ban on the use of social media for children under the age of 16

Staffing for universities: 1,000 teaching posts to be filled in various universities in the state

Upgradation of colleges: Steps will be taken to upgrade degree colleges with more than 1,000 enrolments in the state.

Grant to Visvesvaraya University: Rs 500 crores grant for the development of Visvesvaraya Engineering University on the IIT model

Maternity leave: 90 days maternity leave granted for female guest lecturers in degree, polytechnic and engineering colleges

Grant for infrastructure: Rs 900 crores for infrastructure upgrade in the Health Department. Rs 45 crores granted for upgrading the emergency departments of district and taluk hospitals. 2,500 vacant posts in the Health Department filled.

Steps to establish IVF centres: Rs 1 crore grant each for establishing IVF centres in Bengaluru and Kalaburagi

Renaming hospital: Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru has been renamed Shantaveri Gopalagowda Hospital

Rehabilitation centre: Establishment of a rehabilitation centre for children under the age of 18 who are addicted to drugs

RTE Expansion: SC and ST students will be allowed to continue in 9th and 10th classes under RTE

Rs 660 crore for crisis schools: 30 crisis schools with available sites will have their own building at a cost of Rs 660 crores.

Welfare of Buddhists: Establishment of Buddhist Development Corporation

Grant assistance: Rs 1,500 crores grant for SC, ST, backward classes and minority corporations

Assistance for tribals: Establishment of Karnataka Tribal Development Corporation

Commission: Establishment of the Scheduled Tribes Commission

Grants to communities: Rs 100 crores grants for the comprehensive development of Jain, Buddhist and Sikh communities

Cricket stadium: An 80,000-seat international stadium will be built in Anekal taluk under the name of KHB Surya Krida Grama

Namma Mane Scheme: 50,000 plots have been allocated at concessional rates in the state under the Namma Mane Scheme

Smart Annavani Project: Converting the Food Department's helpline into a Smart Annavani with the help of AI

Kayaka Bhagya Scheme: This scheme will establish an online job exchange centre for unorganised workers

State assistance to Jaljeevan Mission: State share of Rs 38,600 crores for Jaljeevan Mission project, Rs 10,433 crores in the current year

Naming of Grama Panchayats: Every Grama Panchayat in the state will be named Mahatma Gandhi Grama Panchayat

Anantha Yojana: Implementation of Anantha Yojana to set up solar micro grids with public-private partnerships

Grants for the state capital: Rs 7,000 crores for infrastructure in Bengaluru

Ragi Malt: Distribution of ragi malt to improve the nutrition levels of government school children

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25th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. MOHAMMED GHOUSE
(01.07.1941-21.05.2001)
- Family

New plan for Cauvery supply to industries near Bengaluru

Involves pumping water from 2 lakes in Kollegal

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has prepared a plan to pump Cauvery water from two lakes in Kollegal (Chamarajanagar district) to cater to industries around Bengaluru, which Industries Minister M B Patil said on Wednesday would benefit farmers who currently grow only one crop.

The plan is to enhance the storage capacity of the Agara and Madduru lakes in Kollegal and pump water from there.

Patil held talks with Kollegal MLA A R Krishnamurthy and asked officials to organise a meeting with farmers. According to Patil, the Cauvery Water Tribunal allocated 4 tmc ft of water for industrial purposes.

"Of this, 1.37 tmc ft is currently being utilised. A plan has now been drawn up to pump 2.5 tmcft, out of the remaining 2.63 tmcft, to industrial areas in and around Bengaluru," he said.

"We are not using the Cauvery water allocated for agriculture. Instead, we are utilising the water reserved for industrial purposes," Patil said.

To benefit farmers

"During monsoon, water will be pumped directly from the Cauvery river for 120 days, while during the remaining period, water will be drawn from these lakes. For this purpose, the storage capacity of the lakes will be increased tenfold. This, in turn, will benefit farmers," he said.

The present storage capacities of the Agara and Madduru lakes are 0.156 tmcft and 0.111 tmcft, respectively. This will increase to 1.156 tmcft and 1.112 tmcft.

He clarified that only the depth of the lakes would be increased, which would not require fresh land acquisition. Patil said the project would not cause any hardship to farmers in the command area of the Agara and Madduru lakes.

"At present, farmers are provided water for only one crop a year. However, once the project is completed, irrigation coverage will expand and water will be made available for two crops annually," Patil said, adding that this was explained to Krishnamurthy.

The minister said that the Chikkahole and Suvarnamukhi dams, located downstream of the Agara and Madduru lakes, would be developed.

"Water in these lakes, too, will be made available to farmers throughout the year. The project will help improve groundwater levels and promote fisheries, boating and tourism activities," Patil said, urging farmers not to pay heed to rumours and misinformation.

Tourists enjoy an open-jeep safari. DH FILE PHOTO

After Dubare tragedy, govt bans open jeep safaris

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The death of a woman tourist in Dubare elephant camp recently has prompted the Forest Department to adopt a cautious approach and the officials on Wednesday were directed not to use open vehicles for wildlife safaris.

In Dubare, the woman died after an elephant attacked by a tusker lost its balance and fell on its side, crushing her. The incident brought to the fore matters related to the safety of wildlife tourism.

On Wednesday, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre was asked about the safety of tourists.

He reiterated that a standard operating procedure to handle elephants and tourists in elephant camps will be prepared and turned his attention to the broader issue of the safety of tourists.

Khandre said it was brought to his notice that safaris were currently being conducted in open jeeps in the five tiger reserves and other protected areas. He said he has already discussed the matter with the Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka.

"We have decided to adopt a precautionary approach of using vehicles covered with toughened glass reinforced with steel bars. I have issued clear directions to give primacy to the safety of the tourists who come from different corners of the state and the world to experience our protected areas," he said.

The minister also directed that all safari vehicles should have a first-aid kit and safari centres should have an ambulance nearby to cater to any emergency situation.

Kanjan dropped as Dasara jumbo

The minister said Kanjan, the elephant whose aggression led to the death of the woman and another elephant, will not be part of the Dasara processions.

"Kanjan was part of the procession earlier. I have directed them to remove it from the list. At the same time, I have sought a new protocol to ensure that even during the Dasara procession, people do not come close to elephants," Khandre added.

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Leah Regina Heldt
April 19, 2002 - May 21, 2022
Fourth Anniversary
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your light continues to shine in our hearts.
We remember your gentle spirit, your laughter,
and the love you gave so freely."
Memorial Mass at 7 am, Saturday May 23, 2026
Ascension Church, Dacosta Layout

24 illegal sand mining sites raided across Bagalkot dist

BAGALKOT, DHNS: The Lokayuka police in Bagalkot registered a suo motu complaint against the Director of the Mines and Geology Department, Deputy Director of the department in Bagalkot district, the Bagalkot Deputy Commissioner and five tahsildars after a team raided 24 illegal sand mining sites across the district on Wednesday.

Acting on a complaint which alleged that sand was being illegally mined on the banks of the Krishna, Malaprabha and Ghataprabha rivers, the Lokayukta team raided these sites in Hungund, Ilkal, Mudhol and Badami taluks.

It was found that sand was being extracted using machines in clear violation of environmental laws. As many as 65 tippers, 14 mechanical boars, six tractors and one earth moving machine were found at the sand extraction sites. In all, 28 Lokayukta officials and 90 personnel, including those from other districts, were involved in the operation.

Lokayukta officials have asked that a report containing information on the involvement of government officials in the Mines and Geology and other departments, be drafted and submitted.

They said that action would be initiated against the errant officials after further inquiry into the racket.

FOR BAKRID

Breeders and traders from various districts have brought their goats and sheep for sale at the special livestock market organised ahead of Bakrid festival, at the Eidgah Maidan at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

Suicide prevention project extended to B'luru south, Ballari

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Nimhans Suicide Prevention, Research, Implementation Training and Engagement centre's (N-SPRITE) Project Suraksha pilot study, implemented in Channapatna region over 3 years, has recorded 1,261 suicide cases in self-harm registeries. But no re-attempts are reported among them after project intervention.

Following this, the Project Suraksha (Surveillance system to tracK suicide and Self-HArm) is now being extended by Nimhans to all 5 taluks of Bengaluru south district in collaboration with the government and Himalaya wellness company. The government has approved implementation of phase I of the project in Ballari district. Launched in 2023, it was designed as a comprehensive community-based model aligning with India's National Suicide Prevention Strategy (2022) & WHO's live life framework.

The current community-based surveillance teams comprise 795 trained members, including panchayat leaders, healthcare workers, SHG members and teachers, who have conducted 300 stakeholder visits reaching over 6,000 people.

With the expansion, the project will adopt a "train-and-transfer" approach by mentoring local NGOs to co-deliver the programme alongside the project team, ensuring mental health infrastructure remains embedded in the district's mental health landscape.

The projects have provided suicide gatekeeper trainings and trained 4,185 frontline workers such as primary health centre, staff, fire and safety officers, educators, students and anaganwadi workers. The project, through its awareness programmes, has reached 14,294 students across schools and colleges.

According to data presented by N-SPRITE, Indian youth are particularly vulnerable, with suicide being the leading reason for death among those aged 15-29 years and Karnataka is among the five states reporting most suicides in India.

Higher Education dept constitutes 3 expert panels

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Higher Education department has constituted three expert committees to submit recommendations on three major issues.

The committee, headed by former vice chancellor Ambalike Hiriyanna, has been asked to study and submit recommendations on protocol and common dress code during university convocations.

The issue was discussed at a recent meeting chaired by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, which was attended by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, along with the vice chancellors of all the state-run universities.

The meeting discussed on doing away with Western robes the dress code which all universities follow during the annual convocation.

Black caps

A few vice chancellors and Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar proposed khadi dress for students, and also suggested removing the black caps worn by the students and other dignitaries during the convocation.

The second committee headed by former vice chancellor T D Kemparaju has been constituted to submit recommendations on framing uniform guidelines for awarding honorary doctorates by the universities.

Honorary doctorates

Following controversies on yielding to pressures by the universities, over presenting honorary doctorates to politicians and others, Congress MLC Ramesh Babu, during the recently concluded Legislative Council session, had urged the government to regulate the conferring of honorary doctorates, so as to uphold the value of the honorary doctorate degrees.

Syllabus committee

Considering the opinion of the vice chancellors during a meeting to revise the syllabus for higher education, and keeping the present industry requirements and employment opportunities in mind, and also, to make it skill-based, the department has constituted a committee headed by former vice chancellor B Thimme Gowda to study and submit the report on the matter.

As of now, the Board of Studies at the respective universities, are deciding the curriculum.

Bengaluru test pilot becomes first Indian SETP fellow

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Group Captain Kolal Krishnamurthy Venugopal has become the first Indian test pilot to be elected a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP), marking a moment of global recognition for Indian military aviation.

The SETP is an international organisation that aims to promote air safety and contribute to aeronautical advancements.

The honour caps a flying career that has spanned fighter operations, prototype development and experimental flight testing across nearly every major indigenous fixed-wing aircraft programme in India over the last three decades.

Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in December 1989, Venugopal began his career flying the MiG-21. The aircraft would shape much of his early service, including a dramatic engine flameout in February 1993 that forced him to eject from a MiG-21 Bis as a young officer.

Kolal Krishnamurthy Venugopal. PHOTO: HAL

He went on to fly all variants of the MiG-21, became one of the few pilots qualified on the MiG-21 Bis FR, and later commanded No 15 Squadron during its final phase operating the aircraft.

"I was fortunate because when I got qualified as a test pilot, the Kargil War happened in 1999. Also, around the same time, India was embarking on development-led growth in the aerospace sector. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was at the forefront of D&D-led growth in the aerospace sector by handling critical national programmes. This provided me with the opportunity to do prototype work," Venugopal told *DH*.

Since graduating from the Indian Air Force Test Pilots' School in 1999, among Venugopal's most significant contributions was the Saras light transport aircraft programme. In May 2004, during the prototype's maiden flight, the aircraft suffered multiple system failures soon after take-off. Venugopal, who captained the flight, recovered the aircraft safely and landed it without incident. He was later awarded the Vayu Sena Medal for the feat.

"As a test pilot, our role is vast and unique. We have many shoes to fill — we're part of design, audit, inspection and certification. It's not a cut-and-dry role. It extends into every aspect of development... It requires motivation and perseverance," he shared.

Following his voluntary retirement from the IAF in 2016, Venugopal joined HAL as a test pilot. He's currently serving as the executive director and chief test pilot.

HC directs release of revised minimum wages to contractor

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Estate Officer of Karnataka State Legislature to reconsider the claim of a firm engaged in providing security and manpower services for reimbursement of differential revised minimum wages of Rs 3.65 crore.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum said that refusal to revise wages despite statutory increase introduces commercial impossibility, thereby frustrating the very basis of the contract.

The petitioner Asian Security and Personnel Arrangements is a firm engaged in providing security and manpower services for over 35 years. According to the petitioner, the wages payable to the labourers were revised during the subsistence of the contract. This was pursuant to statutory notifications issued under Minimum Wages Act and Labour Welfare Legislation.

The petitioner had submitted a claim for the period April 1, 2016, till March 18, 2018, for the services of mechanised housekeeping contract labour. The firm moved the high court after its representation seeking reimbursement was rejected on the ground that contract was entered into based on prevailing wage structure and therefore, it was not entitled for the differential wages as per 2016 notification.

It was argued on behalf of the Estate Officer that the contractor had entered into an agreement in February 2016 which stipulates that fees shall remain unchanged throughout the term of the contract and any change in statutory minimum wage structure shall be borne by the service providers.

After perusing the material, the court said a contract entered into by the state cannot override statutory obligation.

"Any clause in the contract which has the effect of defending a statutory mandate is unenforceable in law. The doctrine is well settled that there can be no estoppel against the statute. Therefore, even assuming that contract did not provide for escalation and there is a clause indicating that any escalation revision shall be borne by the contractor, the state being an instrumentality under Article 12 of the Constitution, is expected to act as a model employer and cannot take advantage of contractual rigidity to indirectly compel violation of labour welfare statutes," Justice Magadum said, while granting three months' time for quantification as well as release of the differential amount to the petitioner firm.

DH Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate
Bangalore District, Bangalore,
No. MAG(2)/ENT/02/2013/14
Dated : 04.05.2026
FORM C
(See Rules 25(1) and 117)
Notice by the Licensing Authority under the Karnataka Cinemas
(Regulation) Rules 2014

Whereas Sri Vijaya.T S/o Thammanna.L, authorized Signatory of Mantri Tropicana Habitats Pvt Ltd, C-5, Richhouse, No.5/1, Richmond Road, Bengaluru-560025, GPA Holder of (1) M/s PVK Infrastructure Projects (India) Pvt -Ltd, No.201, Margosa Mansion, # 98, Margosa Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-03, (2) M/s Hasco Infrastructure Company Pvt. Ltd, No.301, Margosa Mansion, # 98, Margosa Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-03 and (3) Sri P.Vijayakumar, S/o P.Ramaswamy Raju, No.62/1, 15th 'A' Cross, 6th Main, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-03, Have applied to me for grant of No Objection Certificate, for the location of a permanent Multiplex Cinema (11 Screens) Multiplex on the land belongs to Karnataka Co-operative Milk Producer's Federation, a Co-operative Society having its registered Office at KMF Complexx Dr. M.H.IViarigowda Road, Bengaluru-29 bearing the Municipal No.5 and 5/1, 80 feet Main Road, ward No.68, Koramangala, Bengaluru-95
measuring by a 9645.61 Sq Meters and bounded as under.
EAST : KHB Games Village Residential area.
WEST : Intermediate Ring Road.
NORTH : 80 feet Road [Koramangala Main Road]
SOUTH : Internal Road Koramangala 6th Block.

Notice is hereby given that any person having any objection to Grant of No Objection Certificate as aforesaid should lodge his objection in writing with under signed by the 41h Day of June 2026 Any objection received beyond the date will not be taken into consideration.

Given under my hand this day 4th Day of May 2026.
JAGADEESHA G
06-05-2026
Deputy Commissioner
& District Magistrate
Bengaluru Urban District Bengaluru

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, SYED WASIF RAZA S/O MIR MOHAMMED KOWSER residing at Alipur, Gauribidanur taluk, Chikkaballapur district, Karnataka. have changed my daughter's name. SYEDA FATHIME MARYAM (new name) SYEDA SUHAINA ALEESA (old name) vide affidavit dated 16.05.2026 before notary MS ANANDA, Gauribidanur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SANTHOSH KUMARI K.R, R/at No.B-205, Garuda Blossom Apartments, Basavanapura Main Road, Bhattarahalli, Bengaluru-560049, have changed my name to SANTHOSH KUMARI JUJARE vide affidavit dated 16-05-2026 sworn before notary M.K.Devaki, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as SANTHOSH KUMARI JUJARE only.

I, MANJUNATHA S/o Muniyappa aged about 65 years resident at 2nd Nagarthapet Ward no 10 Sidlaghatta, Chikkaballapur 562105. Have changed my name to S M Manjunatha vide affidavit dated 28.04.2026 before Notary Bhaskar B P Sidlaghatta. Henceforth I Shall be called as S M Manjunatha only. . . .

CHANGE OF NAME
I,GAYATHRI. R, Residing at No. 9, 3rd Floor, 4th Cross, Official Quarters, Byrasandra, Jayanagar, Bengaluru- 560011, have changed my name to ZAINAB. Z, vide affidavit dated 20.05.2026 before Notary B.G. Sriram, Bengaluru.

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, Shankar Gopal V, residing at No. 56, New No. 294, 5th Cross, HAL 3rd Stage, Bhoomi Reddy Colony, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru-560075, have lost my Original Sale Deed of Shankar Gopal V, Document No./ Identification: 1668/1988-89. While in transit. If found please contact: 9686768002

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Bengaluru

Satellite to help unveil Lakkundi temples

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government, in collaboration with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), will identify and unveil the historic 101 stepwells and 101 temples believed to exist in the historic town of Lakkundi, using satellite imaging technology.

Tourism Minister HK Patil on Wednesday said more than 70 monuments, including 32 temples, 28 stepwells and seven other heritage structures, have already been identified in Lakkundi since 2023. He said the government aims to unveil all 101 temples and 101 stepwells by December 31 with support from NIAS scientists and local communities.

The minister also said that the tourism department was preparing a proposal to secure a UNESCO World Heritage status for Lakkundi.

As part of the process, archaeological explorations conducted in November 2024 led to the discovery of over 1,500 artefacts, while the second phase of excavations launched on May 2 this year has uncovered over 1,800 artefacts.

Officials said over 5,000 artefacts are expected to be documented by June 30, following which they will be displayed in an open-air museum.

Patil also said that restoration works were also underway in the heritage town. Five temples and five stepwells were unveiled in February and work on unveiling 10 more is ongoing. Conservation and development works for six monuments have been launched at a cost of Rs 10 crore, he added.

GBA polls: Cong's fear of defeat causing delay, says Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka on Wednesday accused the Congress government of "repeatedly postponing" municipal elections in Bengaluru "fearing defeat".

Addressing a news conference, Ashoka said the postponement of elections amounted to "betrayal" of citizens in the city.

"If election had been held for the earlier 198 wards, it would have been completed long ago. However, after dividing Bengaluru into five parts, Congress' own internal surveys reportedly showed certain defeat. That's why the government is deliberately delaying the election," Ashoka, who represents in the Assembly the Padmanabhanagar constituency in the city," said.

Ashoka also charged that Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is in charge of Bengaluru, wanted to delay the polls until he became the chief minister.

"Due to Congress' internal infighting, garbage is piling up on Bengaluru's streets today and no development work is happening. Congress is directly responsible for this," he said.

The BJP, Ashoka said, was "fully prepared" for the election.

Top BJP leader's visit reignites buzz over Vijayendra's future

Shivprakash to hold meet on state BJP chief's continuation

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP's national joint general secretary (organisation) Shivprakash arrived here on Wednesday, and with him came speculation that he may discuss B Y Vijayendra's future as the party's state president.

Shivprakash was received at the airport by Vijayendra, BJP general secretary P Rajeev, Chitradurga MP Govind Karjol and former minister B C Patil.

According to Vijayendra, Shivprakash is here to review the party's preparations for celebrations to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 12 years in office.

Shivprakash will also take stock of the party's organisation ahead of BJP national president Nitin Nabin's maiden visit to Karnataka on May 23, Vijayendra said.

Party sources, however, said Shivprakash will meet over two dozen leaders on Thursday to discuss various party matters, including Vijayendra's future.

Vijayendra, the son of veteran B S Yediyurappa, was

State BJP chief B Y Vijayendra receives party leader Shivprakash at Bengaluru airport on Wednesday.

appointed as the state BJP president in November 2023. His three-year term ends in November this year.

The appointment of Vijayendra, a first-time MLA and a Lingayat, as the BJP state president caused heartburn within the saffron party.

One faction within the party has been mounting pressure on the top brass to remove Vijayendra.

"Shivprakash is here to take stock of the political mood in the state. He is expected to collect opinions on whether or not Vijayendra should continue, and who can take on the mantle of leadership in the event he is replaced," a senior BJP leader said.

A string of electoral reversals, including the BJP's tally falling from 25 to 17 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka and recent bypoll defeats, have undermined Vijayendra's repertoire, which was built on his organisational resourcefulness.

Soon after the BJP's losses in the Davangere South and Bagalkot bypolls, Vijayendra helmed a massive event in Chitradurga earlier this month to mark his father Yediyurappa completing 50 years in politics.

The event, attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, was seen as a show of strength, and a message to the party on the importance of the Lingayat community's support.

DKS: I never said the CM should be replaced

BENGALURU, DHNS

KPCC President and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said that he would go to Delhi when the high command called him. Asked about the purpose of his impending visit, he said, "We need to discuss state politics and how to bring the party to power (at the Centre)."

Speaking to reporters, Shivakumar denied that he had sought "wages" for his hard work as the KPCC chief and in bringing the party to power in the state. He was responding to senior legislator K N Rajanna's remarks on Parameshwara's turn preceding that of Shivakumar if the CM's post was meant to be a reward for hard work.

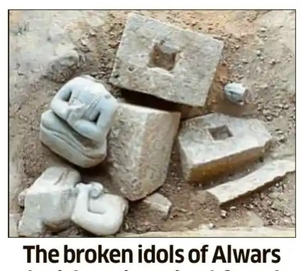
Rajanna had asserted that Parameshwara was KPCC chief for eight years and if only he had not lost his seat, he should have been the chief minister in 2013.

Responding to Rajanna favouring Parameshwara as CM, Shivakumar asked why Rajanna had set out to make Parameshwara the chief minister. "He is free to back Siddaramaiah's continuation, but by stating Parameshwara should be the CM, does Rajanna want to say Siddaramaiah should step down? I never said the CM should be replaced."

Shivakumar also warned the Youth Congress leaders, who indulged in a brawl earlier this week. "I will throw them out if they engage in brawls. The general secretary and working president will take disciplinary action. Before anything, there should be discipline in the party."

Broken idols of Alwars found in Hampi

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT), DHNS: Broken idols of two Alwar idols were unearthed during an excavation being carried out on the northern side of the Hajara Rama Temple at Hampi.



The broken idols of Alwars (Vaishnavite saints) found during an excavation on the famed Hajara Rama temple premises at Hampi in Vijayanagara district.

According to officials of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), this is the first instance of Alwar idol remains being discovered during excavations in Hampi.

The find is expected to shed fresh light on the religious and cultural history of the Vijayanagara period.

"Alwar idols had not been found in earlier excavations in Hampi. Vaishnavite temples generally had idols of 12 or 13 Alwars. Whether more such remains will be found can be confirmed only after further excavation," ASI Superintending Archaeologist K Ramakrishna Reddy told *DH*.

Hampi suffered extensive destruction following the Battle of Talikota in 1565. Vaishnavite temples are among the major targets. Though several broken idols had been recovered earlier, remains of Alwar sculptures have been found for the first time, officials said.

Virupakshi V Hampi, general secretary of the State Tourist Guides' Association, said the discovery indicates the influence of Tamil Nadu on Vaishnavite traditions in Hampi. "The idols and sculptural remains discovered in the region continue to testify to the grandeur of the Vijayanagara Empire," he said.

The Alwars were 12 Vaishnavite saint-poets from South India, particularly Tamil Nadu, who played a major role in spreading devotion to Lord Vishnu.

Kharge hesitant to be CM due to age factor: Rayareddi

BENGALURU, DHNS

All India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge is reluctant to become the Chief Minister of Karnataka owing to his advanced age, claimed Economic Advisor to CM Siddaramaiah and senior Congress leader Basavaraj Rayareddi on Wednesday.

Recounting the conversation he had with Kharge, Rayareddi said, "I apprised him of the current situation and issues concerning governance. I stressed the importance of ensuring effective governance in the state if we (Congress) are to retain power. I also urged him (Kharge) not to replace Siddaramaiah at this critical juncture. If change is inevitable, I suggested that he become the CM by dint of being the seniormost leader. But Kharge told me he did not want to become the CM owing to his age. He told me that Rahul Gandhi and he would take a decision."

Batting for Siddaramaiah's continuation in the CM's post for the remainder of the term, Rayareddi said, "I feel Siddaramaiah will continue as the CM. I have not said I don't want D K Shivakumar to become the CM. If Siddaramaiah continues, the state's condition will be good. Otherwise, Kharge, with his vast experience and seniority should replace Siddaramaiah since the state would then have a Dalit CM."

Cabinet rejig

The CM and the Congress high command need to take a decision on a possible reshuffle of the state Cabinet, said Rayareddi.

"There are many seniors who need to be inducted into the Cabinet. I am a seven-time MLA. A Cabinet rejig will ensure the power is shared, and bring new energy, besides ushering in a different style of administration that benefits people," opined Rayareddi.

District renaming plan: BJP's Tumakuru MLAs go after HM

It erases history, heritage, say Suresh Gowda, Jyothi Ganesh

TUMAKURU, DHNS

The BJP has expressed strong opposition to the proposal by Home Minister G Parameshwara, also the district in-charge minister, to rename Tumakuru district as Bengaluru North.

Tumakuru rural MLA B Suresh Gowda told a press conference on Wednesday, "It is a move to besmirch the image of the district's historical name. One can easily make out that there are real estate interests behind the proposal mooted by the minister, who gained everything politically from the district and owns a number of educational institutions".

Gowda likened it to the deputy chief minister getting Ramanagar district renamed as Bengaluru South, with 'real estate interests in mind'.

"The history of the district will get erased once it is renamed. The resultant urbanisation will deal a heavy blow to the agriculture sector and cause people to migrate for jobs, besides spiking farmer suicides," the MLA said.

'City will continue to be called Tumakuru'

Clarifying on his proposal, the home minister said here on Wednesday that the name of Tumakuru city would not be changed and would remain the headquarters of the renamed district, reports dhns from Tumakuru. "If we are to attract foreign investment, the investors should know that Tumakuru is part of Bengaluru. Hence, the experiment," he told reporters.

While agreeing that Tumakuru should be developed, he said it should not be done by renaming it.

Tumakuru urban MLA G B Jyothi Ganesh said Tumakuru district had an identity of its own and renaming it would amount to destroying its history and heritage.

It would also lead to adverse changes in people's lifestyles and the district should not be sacrificed at the altar of real estate, he said.

India, Italy agree on roadmap...

Italy, From Page 1

The collaboration between the two companies would particularly focus on delivering phased indigenisation, robust maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) capabilities, and comprehensive pilot training for Leonardo's advanced AW169M and AW109 TrekkerM helicopters to meet the requirements of the armed forces of India.

The roadmap for defence industrial cooperation will promote partnerships for technological cooperation, co-production and co-development projects, including helicopters, naval platforms, marine armament and electronic warfare, according to a joint statement issued after the Modi-Meloni meeting. The two leaders also recognised the importance of protecting critical infrastructures and their related supply chains through the strengthening of industrial resilience.

India's Enforcement Directorate inked a deal with Italy's Guardia di Finanza for curbing tax crimes, money laundering and terror financing.

Modi said, "There are immense possibilities for cooperation in areas such as AI, quantum technology, space, and civil nuclear energy. We are working on an India-Italy Innovation Centre to connect startups, research centres, and industries of both countries."

"India's size, digital infrastructure and innovative dynamism combine very well with Italy's industrial strength, manufacturing excellence, and technological integration capabilities," Meloni said, adding: "We are determined to fully explore all these opportunities."

Final notification for Bidadi...

Bidadi, from Page 1

The deputy CM said the farmers surrendering land would be offered either 50% developed residential land or 45% developed commercial land in exchange for every acre acquired. "We will also provide monetary compensation, but farmers should consider opting for land as it will give higher returns."

Urging the farmers not to sell the developed sites immediately, Shivakumar said the government would also provide an additional premium FAR of 0.6, which, according to him, could increase the value of the returned land by Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore per acre.

"We are not giving undeveloped sites like some private layout developers do. The township will have roads, water supply, power infrastructure and connectivity through NICE Road, Bengaluru-Mysuru Road and Kanakapura Road," he said, adding that the proposed township had already been brought under the jurisdiction of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Shivakumar said the government would spend an average of Rs 5 crore per acre, including both compensation and development costs. He also announced financial assistance ranging between Rs 30,000 and Rs 50,000 a year for farmers during the development phase, while landless labourers would receive Rs 25,000 annually.

Challenging Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy for a public debate regarding the project, Shivakumar pointed out that the land earmarked for the township was not dropped even when the BJP and JD(S) were in power.

"When Kumaraswamy was the chief minister, he had all the powers to denotify the land but he did not. Even during the BJP government, nothing happened. In fact, during Jagadish Shettar's tenure, nearly 1,000 acres from the notified area were allotted to the KIADB," Shivakumar said, reiterating that he would not denotify even an inch of land.

Referring to criticism surrounding the project, Shivakumar maintained that the compensation package being offered was "better than what is offered to the farmers in Devanahalli".

"My own relatives requested denotification of land, but I did not agree to it. Whatever I have done, I have protected the interests of farmers," he said, adding that he wants to leave a legacy by implementing this township.

Modi, Shah & RSS 'traitors', 'economic storm'...

Rahul, From Page 1

"When RSS workers come to your homes and talk about Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, you must tell them that their organisation, Modi and Shah are traitors. They have worked towards selling our country and attacked our Constitution, Ambedkarji and Mahatma Gandhi," he said after unveiling a statue of Veera Pasi, a Dalit icon.

Rahul Gandhi

Rahul asserted that he would never apologise for his remarks on the RSS under any circumstances.

The senior Congress leader said while the country has been facing several economic problems, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is handing out candy in Italy. Rahul's attack — during the second day of a visit to his home constituency — came after Italian PM Giorgia Meloni posted a video of Modi gifting her a packet of Melody toffees.

"The youth is in depression...exams are cancelled...there is no gas...fuel prices are increasing...and Indian PM is offering toffee to Meloni...reels are being made," Rahul told reporters.

Referring to the crisis in the fuel sector due to the West Asia war, Rahul alleged that some industrialists are still exporting fuel. "It must be stopped....the people of the country need fuel now," he added.

"An economic storm is coming our way, and our Prime Minister is busy handing out candies in Italy! Farmers, youth, women, labourers and small traders are in tears—the PM is laughing and making reels, while the BJP leaders are clapping along," he wrote on X in Hindi.

Rahul said the government would not be able to protect the people from the coming crisis, the impact of which will be visible in two to three months. "Stop distributing toffees and start taking action...arrange fertilisers for the farmers," he said later while addressing a gathering in neighbouring Amethi.

(With PIT inputs)

Bengaluru polls: SC extends...

GBA polls, Page?

However, the court made it amply clear that "no further extension shall be granted in this regard".

On January 12, the Supreme Court had directed the state government to complete the civic polls in the Greater Bengaluru area by June 30.

The term of the erstwhile city corporation, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, had expired on September 10, 2020.

In its plea, the SEC said it has taken proactive steps to conclude the elections as directed by the court.

"However, the concerns expressed by the state government authorities prima facie appear to be genuine as the Union government ordered census, and SIR is occupying the entire time and logistics of the authorities who are also entrusted with the responsibilities of assisting the State Election Commission to conduct the elections. Hence, there is delay in holding the elections and the extension of time sought is bona fide," the SEC said.

It said it can conduct the polls only with the assistance of the state government.

Due to the deployment of manpower by the state government for the purpose of conducting census, Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, etc., the required manpower and logistics may be unavailable with the state government.

In its plea, the state government said it is not seeking the extension due to any financial constraints, as ample funds have already been allocated and released for the electoral process.

"Rather, the extension is necessitated by a severe lack of available manpower, as the entire administrative and field-level machinery is currently deployed for statutory census activities, the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and the conduct of board examinations. Granting this extension will ensure proper completion of these statutory obligations and adequate election preparedness," it said.

The government said it has diligently completed all its responsibilities, including the publication of final ward reservation notifications, without affecting the election process.

Karnatak University's
Sir Siddappa Kambali Law College
College Road, Dharwad-580 001,
Karnataka, India
(A Constituent College of Karnatak University, Dharwad)
Telephone: 0836-2448177 kussskawedu@gmail.com

Ref. No. KU/SSKLC/2026-27/58 Date: 19-05-2026

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Admissions to 5 Years B.A., L.L.B. (after P.U.C. 10+2) Programme

The Karnatak University's Sir Siddappa Kambali Law College, Dharwad (Formerly University College of Law), has opened the Admission process of **5 Years B.A., L.L.B. Course for the Academic Year 2026-27.** Applicants may apply through UUCMS Portal **https:/uucms. karnataka.gov.in/.**

For more details visit Karnatak University website: **http//www//kud.ac.in** and may contact office phone No. **0836-2448177**

Last date for submission of application – 15-07-2026.

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL
Karnatak University's
Sir Siddappa Kambali Law College, Dharwad.

DIPR/DWD/210/2026-27/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Multi Storied Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi,
Bengaluru- 560001.

No. ED/5/EGOV/2026 Date:19.05.2026

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka State Higher Education Academy is an academy under the department of Higher Education, Government of Karnataka invites application from qualified and competent candidates for the position of the **Director, Karnataka State Higher Education Academy. Haliyal Road, Dharwad, Karnataka-580003.** Interested candidates may apply by sending detailed in the prescribed format to **dsuniversities@gmail.com** The details are given below. The last date for receiving email application along with CV is **30.05.2026 (05.00 P.M.).**

- Applicant must be a Professor in a Government Higher Education Institutions of the State/Public Universities (State & Central)/Institute of National Importance of Government of India.
- Ph.D. from a recognized University.
- Minimum 15 years of teaching/research experience in Higher Education and Minimum 5 years in a senior academic administrative position.
- Age must not exceed 60 years as on the closing date of application.
- Must not have any pending disciplinary or vigilance proceedings.
- Appointment for the period of 5 years or till age of 65 years whichever is earlier.
- The Director must draw the his/her own salary and grade during his tenure, addition to director allowance of Rs.10.000/-. If a retired person is appointed as Director, the emoluments shall be reduced by the amount of pension and allowances drawn by him and other emoluments.

For Application format, visit **https://hed.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- (V.T. Rajyashree)
Deputy Secretary to the Government
(Universities),
Department of Higher Education)

DIPR/CP/JA/751/2026-27

DECCAN HERALD
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A flawed prescription for civic failures

Upholding its 2025 ruling on removing stray dogs from public spaces, the Supreme Court of India has now allowed euthanasia of rabid and dangerous dogs in the interest of public health and safety. The original judgment was seen as unrealistic given the massive investment and logistics involved in removing the dogs from spaces such as railway stations, hospitals, and highways, and rehabilitating them. In its latest order, the Court said the dogs picked up from these locations should not be released there even after vaccination and sterilisation. Municipal authorities in the country do not have the personnel for the job or the infrastructure to house these dogs.

The Court has told the authorities to adopt legally permissible measures, including euthanasia, in cases of "rabid, incurably ill or demonstrably dangerous or aggressive dogs." This is effectively a prescription to cull the dogs without discrimination because the Court's condition that the decision should align with the assessment of qualified veterinary experts is likely to be observed in the breach. It risks entrusting the municipal staff with powers to act as the judge, jury, and executioner – killing the dogs will be seen as a convenient, legitimate response. Notably, the Court observed that there is a "discernible absence of sustained, systematic and incremental efforts to expand and strengthen the infrastructure to manage the dog population." This situation is likely to remain. The Court ordered the setting up of a fully functional birth control centre in every district, equipped with the requisite infrastructure, trained personnel, and surgical facilities, and proposed an expansion of this setup. There is no clarity on timelines or other details in the directive. But what is certain is that most of the dogs around us will not live to see these centres.

The SC's ruling on stray dogs may legitimise arbitrary culling. ABC remains a stronger, humane alternative

In its latest ruling, the apex court seeks to solve a problem created by people and civic authorities. Stray dogs have proliferated because of conditions caused by administrative failings. An effective implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, with a firm focus on vaccination and sterilisation, remains the most viable solution to the problem. Public policy should, no doubt, prioritise human health and welfare, but it must also be humane and kind. It should not be hostile to life. It cannot breach the fundamental principle that the earth does not belong to human beings alone. Law and policy, designed around human existence, must not become tools to deny other living beings their rights.

Green transition needs responsible extraction

The Geological Survey of India (GSI)'s proposal to explore lithium reserves in the forested pockets of Raichur places Karnataka at the centre of India's emerging critical minerals strategy. In an era where lithium powers electric vehicles, battery storage systems, and the broader green-energy transition, the temptation to fast-track exploration is understandable. Yet, the proposal revives a difficult question: can the pursuit of clean energy justify the destruction of fragile forest ecosystems? The Amareshwar belt, located within the mineral-rich Eastern Dharwar Craton, has shown encouraging lithium-bearing pegmatite formations in earlier studies. For India, which remains heavily dependent on imports, a viable domestic lithium reserve would carry enormous strategic value. It could strengthen energy security and support the country's electric mobility ambitions.

However, the current proposal is not merely a scientific exercise unfolding in barren terrain. It involves reserved forest land. Even at the prospecting stage, drilling operations require the felling of hundreds of trees. The danger lies in treating exploratory clearances as routine administrative approvals when, in reality, they often become the first irreversible step towards large-scale mining.

The pursuit of critical minerals cannot come at the cost of fragile forest ecosystems

The government must therefore ensure caution, transparency, and scientific accountability. At the survey stage itself, exploratory drilling must remain tightly limited in scope, with strict caps on tree felling, road construction, and heavy machinery movement. Independent ecological assessments should be mandatory before permissions are granted. Wildlife corridors, groundwater systems, and soil stability cannot become collateral damage in the race for strategic minerals. If commercially viable reserves are discovered, the safeguards must become even more stringent. The state must insist on legally enforceable mine closure plans, real-time environmental monitoring, and substantial upfront restoration-fund deposits placed in escrow before extraction begins. Progressive afforestation, scientific topsoil preservation, and independent annual audits must be non-negotiable.

The state must learn from past resource-extraction failures. The Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation's Krishna-Godavari basin venture was sharply criticised by the Comptroller and Auditor General after over Rs 19,576 crore was spent amid weak risk assessment, technological miscalculations, and little commercial return. Karnataka cannot afford another high-profile extraction gamble that may cause permanent ecological damage. A genuinely green transition cannot be built on reckless mining, opaque clearances, and degraded forests. Karnataka must ensure that the pursuit of strategic minerals does not repeat the old development model in which environmental costs are socialised while profits remain in private hands.

BEYOND LABELS

Justice, language and the burden of restraint

Prejudice and generalisations should not shape judicial language. India cannot afford a deeper us-them divide

JAGDISH RATTANANI

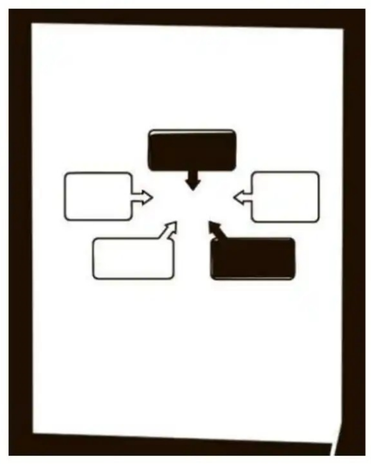
The categorisation of certain groups as 'parasites' and 'cockroaches' by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant in open court is unfortunate and worrying. The remarks were made by way of *obiter dicta* last week in hearings on a case related to a lawyer seeking to be awarded the designation of a senior advocate. The furore that followed brought an immediate clarification from the CJI that read: "What I had specifically criticised were those who have entered professions like the Bar (legal profession) with the aid of fake and bogus degrees. Similar persons have sneaked into the media, social media, and other noble professions as well, and hence, they are like parasites... it is totally baseless to suggest that I criticised the youth of our nation."

While we must accept the CJI's position that he did not criticise the youth of India, as was reported, and that his original remarks targeted a narrow section he feared had fake qualifications, the comments broadly and the choice of words in particular are problematic.

Language reveals thinking and often builds the ground for what might follow. The Zen Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh famously said that every communication bears the signature of the person who put it out. We are like the cloud that produces the rain, he wrote, so that even after the cloud has burst, the rain has a lasting effect as it seeps into the land. Similarly, Mahatma Gandhi spoke of non-violence in "thought, word, and deed", recognising that the triad represents parts that are interconnected and together make for the complete human experience. Gandhi thus warned against the use of language that is offensive, even against an evil person.

Seen in this light and by many other standards, the CJI's remarks and the clarification issued later clearly fall short. The violence embedded in the words, coupled with the dehumanising nature of the language and its well-recorded history of othering certain sections of society, even though the CJI surely did not intend it to carry any of those meanings, make this a particularly undesirable presentation coming from the highest judicial authority of the nation. Furthermore, even when the remarks are made in passing, their signalling effect influences the nation's judicial edifice in complex and unpredictable ways later on.

This is not the first time that the CJI has waded into controversial territory. In January, while dismissing a PIL by domestic worker unions seeking that they be covered by the law on minimum wages, Justice Surya Kant remarked that trade unionism was responsible for stopping industrial growth, that unions resisted reforms and discouraged investments. "How many industrial



units in the country have been closed thanks to trade unions?" the CJI was quoted as saying.

Similarly, recent remarks on environmentalists have raised concern. Reports quoted the Supreme Court bench of the CJI and Justice Joymalya Bagchi as saying: "Show us a single project where these environmentalists have said we welcome this," and "You want to stall everything in the name of the environment... How can the country develop without infrastructure?"

The remarks came in an appeal against the order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), challenging the environmental clearance for the expansion of the Pipavav port project in Gujarat. The court allowed the petitioners to file a review appeal before the NGT and disposed of the petition.

The perils of othering

The tendency to over-categorise and group citizens under labels is a slippery slope. It leads to the 'them' versus 'us' divide that silences voices standing up to dominant narratives, oversimplifies complex issues, and ultimately does not serve the cause of justice. Categorising all environmentalists or all trade unions or the youth, positively or negatively, betrays a prejudice that makes it difficult to look at the particularities of the case and the complexities of the situation at hand.

In the classic book *The Nature of Prejudice* from the 1950s, Gordon Allport wrote that man has a propensity to prejudice. This lies in the "normal and natural tendency to form generalisations, concepts, categories, whose content represents an oversimplification of the world of experience." There are, of course, rational categories that are close to experience but equally irrational categories "composed wholly of hearsay evidence, emotional projections and fantasy," Allport wrote.

History records that when these irrational flights of fancy are allowed to take off, terrible results follow. The Nazis called the Jews parasites and worse during the Holocaust; Tutsis, massacred in the 1994 genocide by Hutu forces in Rwanda, were referred to as *inyenzi* (cockroaches in the local Kinyarwanda language); the Americans called the Vietnamese "dinks, gooks, slopes, slants" during the Vietnam war and the Israelis most recently have used dehumanising language against the Palestinians in furtherance of their genocide in Palestine.

The CJI's clarification speaks of people with bogus degrees who have "sneaked into the media, social media and other noble professions". This suggests there is surreptitious activity to avoid detection and cause some harm. The remarks come at a time India is under "the biggest attack on the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed to us by our Constitution," to quote the Congress party. This is also reflected in the further fall in the country's World Press Freedom Index ranking for 2026, from 151 to 157.

It may be useful to recall the masterpiece movie and play *12 Angry Men* that features 12 jurors in a room to highlight how personal prejudice impedes the cause of justice. Henry Fonda, playing juror number 8 in the movie, notes: "It's always difficult to keep personal prejudice out of a thing like this. And wherever you run into it, prejudice always obscures the truth."

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Schooled by my surroundings

Growing up in a small town has its rewards

MAYURNATH GANTI

Just the other day I was reading Sir William Wade's treatise on administrative law. The opening paragraph gives a graphic account of the external or 'visible signs' of the presence of the government in London in 1914, beyond the post office and the police station. That took me back in time to the Sandur of the 1960s and 1970s, where I was born, brought up and educated till PUC.

Until the early 1970s Sandur was not well connected with the rest of the state. One had to first go to Hospet or Ballari for an onwards journey. Even to these two places, public transport was just so-so. The buses were old and rickety; they were operated by private operators. Being born in a small town had its own rewards. I could witness the emergence of certain instrumentalities of the government which could advance economic development and contribute to the growth of our administrative law.

Back then, the Mysore State Road Transport Corporation Ltd (later KSRTC) began to operate its buses. These buses were brand new. The drivers and conductors looked smart in their new khaki uniforms. One Saturday morning I travelled to Ballari by one of those buses.

I secured a window seat. The conductor came to my father to collect the fare and issued him some tiny slips of paper, which he secured in his wallet. Inquisitive as I was, I asked him what those paper slips were. "Tickets", he answered and explained their significance.

Some half an hour into the journey, as the bus was meandering along a rough stretch of muddy road on its way out of the Sandur valley, it was stopped by an MSRTC official: burly, with a thick moustache and bulging eyes. The moment he stepped onto the bus, he began to show off his authority: he upbraided the driver, scolded the conductor and fined two passengers for some fault. After some time, the bus moved. Upon my query, my father explained that he was an inspector with certain powers for which he was obviously held in awe.

Many years later, I learnt that exercise or non-exercise of power by officials, abuse of power by them and how courts rein in any abuse of power all formed the core of administrative law.

Sandur being a mining town, the National Mineral Development Corporation set up its office there in around the early 1970s. Its signboards and vehicles bore the words 'A Govt of India Undertaking'. What did that mean? Again, my father satisfied my curiosity.

My father's employers in those days were mine owners and mineral 'exporters'. Exporters? I looked up to my father. He also explained another related word, 'importers'.

Trucks carrying iron ore and manganese had the words 'Private Carrier' or 'Public Carrier' written on the panels above the windscreens. Again, my father tirelessly answered my queries.

This informal learning gave me a head start when I took up the study and practice of law.

Like John Keats' Meg Merrilies, I was schooled by my surroundings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Umar Khalid case raises concerns

I refer to your editorial 'Bail as rule: Some uneasy questions' (May 20). It augurs well that the Supreme Court of India has questioned its earlier verdict denying bail to Umar Khalid, who is facing trial in connection with the 2020 Delhi riots, and exposed judicial mishandling that extended the injustice allegedly meted out to him. It is a sad commentary on the Indian legal and penal system that Khalid and co-accused Sharjeel Imam have remained in jail for over five years while courts, including the Supreme Court, repeatedly rejected their pleas for bail. However, a Bench of Justices has now made it clear that the earlier rejection of bail by a two-judge Bench violated the time-honoured principle that bail is the rule and jail the exception. It is important to realise that a lengthy and labyrinthine process itself becomes a form of punishment. Supposing Khalid is ultimately proved innocent, who will compensate him for the losses he has suffered?
M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Rahul misses the point

Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the so-called 'Meloni moment' once again highlight the Congress leader's tendency to focus on trivialities instead of substantive policy matters. If the Opposition genuinely wishes to question the government, it should raise concerns about the implications of India's trade engagements with Italy or examine whether such agreements adequately protect Indian industries and workers. Instead, Rahul Gandhi chose to ridicule the PM for presenting chocolates during his Italy visit. Ironically, reports suggest that the chocolates in question were Indian-made products, showcasing domestic enterprise abroad. Many may view this as a positive gesture that promotes *swadeshi* products on the global stage. At a time when voters expect constructive opposition and serious debate on economic and foreign policy issues, reducing political discourse to personal mockery weakens the credibility of the Opposition.
Narendra Kumar S S, Bengaluru

End the menace

It is disturbing to note that Karnataka has the dubious distinction of reporting the highest number of dowry-related cases in the country (Why dowry doesn't die, May 18) and that the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, remains a toothless tiger. The writer rightly points out that dowry has now taken the form of a demand for lavish weddings and costly gifts even among the affluent. The menace must be curbed through strict enforcement of rules.
S Shashidhar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

She (Mamata Banerjee) can try, she has a lot of time, there is nothing to work in Bengal, they have lost credibility, no one is with the TMC... She can do whatever she wants...
Samik Bhattacharya, WB BJP chief

Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces people into thinking they can't lose.
Bill Gates

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

HAL bets big with HR reset

The reforms signal intent for stronger defence outcomes, but they'll need a cultural shift to complement them

GOPAL SUTAR

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), India's premier defence PSU, has long been seen as hierarchical and resistant to change. On May 6, 2026, just days after the new Chairman and Managing Director assumed office, it announced dramatic HR reforms, including the formation of a Central HR Cell (CHRC) in Bengaluru, effective June 1. The CHRC will centralise HR functions, streamline service delivery, and operate through four verticals. For a company often criticised as slow and bureaucratic, this signals intent to break old patterns.

The CHRC will oversee employee relations, talent management, industrial relations with CSR and legal functions, and strategic HR, including policy, compensation, and career management. While three verticals will function from the LCA Plant II, the strategic arm will be housed at the corporate office. Divisional HR teams will now focus on grievance handling, welfare, and township administration. With 21 divisions and five complexes nationwide, this centralisation marks a major structural shift. By creating functional specialisation and standardisation, HAL aims to align with modern HR models.

HAL has faced persistent criticism from the Armed Forces over delays and reliability. Reforming HR is a logical starting point. If executed well, this could foster a unified culture and improve efficiency. Yet, as the phrase goes, "Culture eats strategy for breakfast." Without a mindset change, reforms risk remaining on paper. Dave Ulrich's reminder that HR must deliver value and not just activities is particularly relevant. The CHRC must focus on outcomes through employee engagement, productivity, and innovation rather than merely creating another bureaucratic layer.

HAL's HR has traditionally operated in an authoritative style. If this continues, the CHRC risks becoming another power centre. Moreover, HAL is a predominantly technical company, and HR must understand the aspirations of engineers and shop floor workers. There is apprehension among production executives that centralisation may empower HR at the expense of career growth in technical streams. Jim Collins, in *Good to Great*, emphasised "getting the right people on the bus, and the wrong people off the bus." HAL's talent management must prioritise merit and capability over hierarchy to avoid alienating its technical workforce. Another concern is whether the same personnel, steeped in old habits, can drive new reforms.

Other PSUs such as BHEL and NTPC have experimented with HR modernisation, focusing on leadership development, transparent promotion systems, and digital HR platforms. In the private sector, Infosys pioneered HR digitisation, while Tata Steel emphasised employee welfare as a driver of productivity. Globally, Boeing and Airbus have invested heavily in HR transformation, tying HR metrics directly to project delivery timelines. HAL could learn from these examples, ensuring that HR is not just administrative but directly linked to defence outputs.

If the CHRC succeeds, it could catalyse reforms in design, production, manufacturing, planning, and marketing. HAL faces stiff competition from private players, especially in helicopters, fighters, and transport aircraft segments. Notably, HAL was excluded from the initial phase of the Rs-15,000 crore Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme, where private firms are strong contenders. HR reform is thus a crucial first step toward broader transformation.

The CHRC also offers HAL an opportunity to build stronger shared values around a unified HR identity. By creating structured processes, standard operating procedures, and transparent workflows, HAL can improve consistency and efficiency. If implemented sincerely, this could enhance employee trust and morale, which in turn strengthens organisational performance.

Enhancing preparedness

HAL's role in India's defence preparedness cannot be overstated. The company has delivered aircraft and helicopters that form the backbone of the Armed Forces. Yet delays, quality concerns, and service issues have often marred its reputation. Strengthening HR is not just about internal efficiency; it directly impacts defence capability.

A motivated workforce, clear career paths, and fair recognition systems can improve productivity and innovation. In defence manufacturing, where precision and reliability are paramount, HR reforms are not peripheral; they are central to national security.

John Kotter, in his work on change management, argued that "transformation is a process, not an event." HAL must recognise that HR reform is not a one-time announcement but a sustained journey requiring leadership commitment, communication, and reinforcement.

This HR restructuring is better late than never. It signals intent, speed, and strategic alignment. But success will depend on execution and cultural acceptance. If the CHRC can overcome resistance, engage stakeholders, and build shared values, HAL may finally shed its archaic HR image.

The coming months will reveal whether the move is a genuine reform or a routine, repackaged version. For India's defence preparedness, the stakes could not be higher.

(The writer is a former spokesperson of HAL and a media analyst)

Not the end for Mamata, but the road back looks steep

DATELINE Kolkata

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK

The day Suvendu Adhikari took oath as chief minister of West Bengal's first Bharatiya Janata Party government, his predecessor Mamata Banerjee celebrated Rabindra Jayanti – the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore – in the courtyard of her residence, with just a handful of loyal Trinamool Congress workers. The party she founded in 1998 and led to power in 2011 was already in a meltdown by then. BJP cadres – a mix of old-timers and recent turncoats – had unleashed the fury of the victor on the vanquished TMC supporters, in keeping with a tradition Mamata Banerjee's party itself set after ousting the Left Front from power 15 years ago. The knives had been out within the TMC, too, with many leaders, from known disgruntled and sidelined heavyweights to closet malcontents and 'save-your-own-skin' deserters, blaming Mamata's nephew, Abhishek Banerjee, hitherto hailed as the *senapati* (army chief) of the party, and the political consultancy firm I-PAC for the debacle in the just-concluded Assembly elections.

Mamata, presiding over the Rabindra Jayanti celebration, not only hit out at the BJP over attacks on TMC workers but also called for a joint forum of the opposition parties and youth and civil society groups to take on the saffron party. Earlier, after the BJP routed the TMC in the polls, she had said she would work to strengthen the I.N.D.I.A. bloc against the BJP at the Centre.

The TMC supremo's words appeared at odds with her own role within the I.N.D.I.A. in the past. Though she played a key role in bringing the opposition parties together in 2023 to take on the BJP, she refused to spare more than two of West Bengal's 42 Lok Sabha seats for the Congress ahead of the 2024 parliamentary polls and even publicly questioned the party's national strength. The TMC went solo in the state after seat-sharing talks failed, while the Congress reached an understanding with the CPI(M)-led Left Front. After winning 29 seats, the TMC took a dig at the Congress and claimed only Mamata could pose a formidable challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Earlier, the party had poached 12 Congress MLAs in Meghalaya, while Abhishek asserted that the TMC would not play second fiddle to the Congress in Parliament. Mamata was also often seen trying to build a non-Congress subgroup within the I.N.D.I.A.

Mamata and Abhishek received calls from Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi after the TMC's defeat. Rahul even publicly backed the TMC's allegation that the BJP had rigged the polls with the Election Commission's help. But the Congress leadership stayed silent on her plan to play a bigger role within the I.N.D.I.A., while its West Bengal leaders scoffed at her call for a joint anti-BJP platform. The CPI(M) – worst hit by the TMC's rise – reacted similarly.

The TMC supremo on May 14 donned lawyers' robes and went to the Calcutta High Court to seek protection for her party's supporters from the attacks by the BJP cadres. It was her second public appearance since the rout. Though some lawyers booed her, Mamata's appearance before the court revived hope among loyalists that she would next return to what defined her political rise – fighting on the streets.

The BJP secured 2.92 crore votes (45.84%), while the TMC managed 2.60 crore (40.80%). The gap of around 32 lakh votes translated into a landslide for the BJP, which won 207 seats — 127 more than the TMC's tally of 80. Though the scale of the defeat has pushed the TMC into its gravest crisis since coming to power, a political revival may still not be impossible for the party.

What is worrying for Mamata, however, is the speed with which the TMC – a party born out of mass agitation and led by a mass leader like her – unravelled after the electoral setback. The crisis laid bare how the TMC edifice, which had appeared formidable across West Bengal, had over the past 15 years come to rest heavily on the levers of power.

The rout exposed not just organisational weakness, but also a deeper crisis of credibility within the ruling party. Mamata's rise was built on projecting herself as the antithesis of an entrenched establishment. From her years of street protests against the Left Front to the Singur and Nandigram agitations that propelled her to power, she cultivated the image of an accessible, austere leader fighting for the dispossessed. But her last 15 years in power saw many accusations she once levelled against the Left Front – corruption, cadre excesses and strongman politics – being directed at her own party. Abhishek's corporate-style political management increasingly seemed contradictory to Mamata's image of a closer-to-grassroots streetfighter.

The BJP's ascent in West Bengal signals not merely a change of regime, but also the success of Hindutva vis-à-vis Mamata's *Bangaliyana*. It presents the TMC with a delicate political challenge: retaining its secular credentials and support among the Muslims, significantly dented by the Congress and the CPI(M), while attempting to win back the Hindu Bengalis, whom the BJP succeeded in persuading to let Bengal's long-celebrated sub-nationalist ethos yield to a broader Hindu political consciousness.

Not only will Mamata have to regain her credibility in national politics, but the TMC will have to return among the masses to revive itself in West Bengal. Protests against demolition of roadside shops and fuel price hikes by the BJP governments in the state and the Centre, respectively, offer her an opportunity to take her party back to the streets and reconnect with the economically distressed. **DHNS**

Outmatched militarily, Iran used 'triangular coercion' by attacking Gulf states and closing the Strait of Hormuz. It points to a long-term US vulnerability

How Iran gained leverage in the war

AMANDA TAUB

REUTERS

Nearly three months into the conflict, the Iranian regime has succeeded in confounding US and Israeli expectations for a speedy victory.

The regime survived a wave of targeted killings early in the war. It then managed to turn the tables on its more powerful adversaries, introducing something of a stalemate.

Since mid-March, Iran has maintained control over the Strait of Hormuz, an international waterway crucial to the world's oil and gas trade. It has been able to limit US and Israeli attacks on its energy industry. It even got President Donald Trump to rein in Israel's war in Lebanon against Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed militia.

"Iran definitely has the advantage here," said Nicole Grajewski, who teaches at the Centre for International Studies at Sciences Po in France and studies Iran's foreign policy. "The United States is just kind of flailing at the moment."

This is, at first blush, somewhat surprising. The United States has the most powerful military in the world. Iran, a regional power, does not. But wars are not fought in isolation.

To gain an edge over its much more powerful adversary, Iran used a method that game-theory scholars call "triangular coercion," said Dan Sobelman, a professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem who studies Iranian deterrence strategies.

The strategy works by attacking a more vulnerable third party that has some leverage over an adversary to gain advantage over an opponent that cannot be outmatched directly.

In this case, the third parties were primarily the Gulf States, which are both militarily vulnerable and economically important to the United States. Iran's attacks against them early in the war, combined with its ability to effectively close the strait, have for now successfully thwarted a decisive victory for the United States and Israel.

It is a strategy that could have long-term implications not only for the outcome of the current conflict and Iran's role in the Middle East, but also for the limits of US power elsewhere.

Triangular coercion

Iran began putting pressure on Gulf States soon after the war began February 28, by firing on ships going through the Strait of Hormuz, effectively closing the narrow waterway, through which 20% of the world's oil transits.

But the crucial moment when Iran's triangular-coercion strategy snapped into place came about 2 1/2 weeks later.

On March 18, Israel bombed Iran's South Pars natural gas field, and Iran retaliated by bombing Ras Laffan, a major liquefied natural gas facility in Qatar, and carrying out drone attacks on refineries in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

That retaliation "introduced an equation," Sobelman said. "If Israel or the US went after Iran's energy facilities, Iran was going to go after the Gulf's energy facilities."

Within hours, Trump wrote on social media that Israel's attack had not been coordinated with the United States, and that there would be no more attacks by Israel on South Pars as long as Iran halted its strikes on Qatar. It marked a turning point in the war. Although the two sides still traded attacks, there appeared to be a ceiling on escalation.

"The United States and Israel are relatively insulated against direct military attacks, but Gulf States like Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are far more vulnerable," Sobelman said. "Iran found success by leveraging its vulnerable neighbours against their more powerful patron."

Iran's bombing of energy facilities caused oil prices to spike to their highest level since the war began, making it clear that further escalation would lead to economic costs for the United States as well.

That was not enough to end the conflict, but it did introduce "intra-war deterrence," Grajewski said, giving Iran significant leverage.

Within days, Trump announced that the US and Iran were negotiating. On April 8, the two sides agreed to a ceasefire, even though the strait remained closed.

Lasting implications

The use of this strategy by Iran has shifted much of the focus of the war to the crucial question of how to get the strait reopened — and how to limit Iranian leverage over it in the future.

Efforts to pressure Iran to reopen the crucial waterway have proved unsuccessful.

In April, the US imposed its own blockade of the strait, vowing to keep it in place until Iran and the United States agree to a durable peace deal. That move put considerable pressure on Iran, which also needs revenue from oil exports and will eventually run out of storage space for the oil it produces. But the strait remained closed.

On May 3, Trump announced "Project Freedom," a US operation to guide ships stranded in the strait. He backed down a few days later, leaving more than 1,000 vessels still trapped. "That, I think, speaks volumes of Iran's capacity to restrain and deter the United States," Sobelman said.

As the situation drags on, it is becoming more likely that Iran will seek to maintain at least partial control over the waterway, experts say.

"The longer Iran is able to hold shipping hostage, the more true it becomes that Iran is going to need to be a legitimate stakeholder and beneficiary in the reopening of the strait," said Nitya Labh, an international security fellow at Chatham House, a London-based research institution.

That will mean that Iran, though deeply damaged by the war, is likely to emerge from it with a valuable new asset. Having at least partial control over the strait would be not only a source of revenue for the regime, but also a form of geopolitical strength.

Iran's ability to shut down the strait again will serve as an "insurance policy" against future attacks, Grajewski said.

That scenario points to a broader and potentially more permanent weakness in Trump's foreign policy: The United States, while powerful, may not be as insulated against retaliation as Trump's team has often seemed to assume.

Not all countries will be willing or able to use triangular coercion against a hostile superpower in the same way. But after Iran's example, more may try.

Continuing uncertainty

Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned on Wednesday that any new attack on the country would provoke them to spread the war beyond West Asia, raising the stakes of diplomatic efforts to end the conflict.

In a statement reported by Iranian state media, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a powerful military force that answers directly to the country's supreme leader, said that if "aggression against Iran is repeated," it would deliver blows "in places you cannot even imagine."

President Trump said this week that he had postponed a "very major attack" against Iran after the leaders of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar had asked for more time to pursue an agreement over Iran's nuclear programme.

There was a "very good chance" that a deal could be reached, he said, but he was vague when asked how long Tehran had to return to the negotiating table, saying only "a limited period of time."

The duelling messages underscore the fragile state of diplomacy between the two countries, while the Guards' threat echoed growing fears in Washington that Iran or allied groups could seek to strike Western interests outside the region.

Negotiations to end the conflict have stalled over Iran's nuclear programme and the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has effectively closed the waterway since the early days of the war, rattling global energy markets. **The New York Times**

Caste and crisis of fraternity

NAYAKARA VEERESHA

The Tamil Nadu Leader of Opposition, Udhayanidhi Stalin, made a controversial remark in the legislative assembly when he said *Sanatana Dharma* needed to be eradicated because it divides people. Faced with severe backlash, he later clarified through a post on X: "... I said the caste system that divides people must be abolished. Some people criticise me for this... When I say that the caste system should be abolished, it does not mean that no one should go to the temple. It means that everyone should have equal rights, not only in the temple but also in society."

The remarks underline the stark reality of the persistence of *jaati* (caste) in Indian society. While the existence and persistence of caste are well known, B R Ambedkar's idea of social democracy and its role in building an egalitarian society need emphasis. The supremacy of caste has extended beyond the comprehension of the human mind due to the hegemonic and ideological politics of successive governments.

The persistence of caste supremacy, to the extent of undermining the credibility and legitimacy of institutions, such as the Supreme Court and the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI), is a serious concern. Such incidents are symptoms of deeply rooted caste-based discrimination and marginalisation. The continuation of caste discrimination is a disgrace to the country's social development. Economic empowerment alone is insufficient to alleviate caste-based discrimination. This could be one of the reasons why Ambedkar emphasised the need for social democracy to sustain political democracy. Ambedkar's *Annihilation of Caste* is a seminal work advocating the abolition of caste discrimination and the rightful inclusion of socially and economically disadvantaged sections of society.

The political values of equality and, most significantly, fraternity are in serious danger given the prevailing intolerance and the politics surrounding it. The normalisation of social violence is antithetical to liberty, democracy, and, more importantly, social democracy. The dialectical relationship between the institution of caste and its continuing salience perpetuates occupation-based inequalities, as reflected in the suppression or under-reporting of data on deaths of workers engaged in manual scavenging.

There has been a systematic erosion of the practices of equality and fraternity, driven by the uniformity of political ideology that seeks to establish a society based on the majoritarian values. These attacks send a message to those who disagree with the dominant political ideology, wherein caste and caste politics continue to operate in ways that sustain entrenched power relations. The persistence of caste-based discrimination is centuries old. Seventy-six years after India became a republic, the anti-discrimination policies enshrined in its Constitution stand in contrast to ideological and hegemonic politics. Antonio Gramsci rightly observed that democratic republics often provide greater scope for hegemonic politics than for emancipatory politics.

Fraternity, which Ambedkar regarded as a foundational political value in the context of caste-based discrimination in India, assumes even greater importance today. His clarion call for the annihilation of caste and the establishment of social democracy must become urgent national goals, not merely constitutional ideals. Ambedkar's conception of social democracy is a true reflection of Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law, and this vision must be taken seriously by policymakers and the executive for effective implementation. Among the trinity of political values—equality, liberty, and fraternity—it is fraternity that forms the basis upon which equality and liberty can truly be realised.

Having constitutional provisions to prevent discrimination in all forms, along with rising demands for affirmative action from increasingly influential communities, presents a real paradox. The growing demand for reservations risks diluting the spirit of Ambedkar's vision of social democracy. The persistence of caste and the politics surrounding reservations among communities contradict Ambedkar's call for the annihilation of caste. The contradiction between economic prosperity and socio-political divisions calls for coherent and inclusive public policies to address these inherent limitations.

The dismantling of caste discrimination requires a collective consciousness among the nation and its people. Restructuring and revitalising the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), along with Ambedkar Chairs in universities —central, state, deemed and private—is imperative.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the Symbiosis Law School, Symbiosis International [Deemed University], Pune)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Chavan regrets abrogation of N-pact by Canada

New Delhi, May 20
India today expressed regret and disappointment over Canada "turning its back" on the negotiated settlement in regard to nuclear co-operation between the two countries and "unilaterally abrogating the contractual obligations." Making a statement in Parliament, External Affairs Minister Y. B. Chavan said members would agree that there was no ground for any suggestion that the Government of India "is in any way responsible for ending Indo-Canadian nuclear co-operation."

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

George meets PM, seeks guarantee on BJP support

New Delhi, May 20
The Prime Minister, Mr A B Vajpayee, and Samata Party leader George Fernandes today held an hour-long discussion to defuse the political crisis after the Samata Party threatened to quit the National Democratic Alliance coalition over the Manipur leadership issue. The SP has also demanded that written assurance by the BJP be given on its support to the Samata Government in Manipur. Mr Vajpayee is reported to have assured Mr Fernandes that he would try to solve the problem.

OASIS | ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

Look beyond the closed door

Life is a vast reservoir of potential, constantly preparing the stage for success. Encountering a shadow of doubt is merely an invitation to kindle an inner light. By trusting in the natural design of things, we allow ourselves to become vessels for inspiration, ensuring that the journey remains aligned with a higher purpose.

To truly give this motivating philosophy the life it deserves, let us look at how fellow human beings have navigated their darkest hours by leaning into the support around them.

India's former president, the late A P J Abdul Kalam, believed his world had collapsed after failing to secure a spot as a fighter pilot, finishing ninth for only eight available positions. Yet, he was merely being redirected through the timely wisdom of a sage in Rishikesh. This pivotal moment helped us realise that setbacks are often just course corrections towards a more significant calling. He became a beacon for the nation, proving that the loss of one dream often prepares the soul for a much grander reality—one where he didn't just fly planes but led the entire scientific progress of the country.

The legendary boxer, Mary Kom, encountered barriers that seemed shut by the heavy bricks of poverty and social restrictions. She had every reason to falter; however, she relied on the tools within and around her: an indefatigable spirit and the vital support of those who recognised her fire. Her story shows that origins do not define ultimate goals. By keeping the heart open despite facing resistance, we prove that trust in inner strength allows the necessary resources—stamina, grit, and community—to manifest and aid the cause.

As we move forward, let us carry the honour of our convictions. This path is uniquely ours, yet we are never truly alone. The more we open ourselves to the possibilities in our vicinity, the more clearly we can recognise the guideposts placed along our way. By embracing this perspective, we begin to see that struggles are not punishments, but rather the very forge in which character is tempered.

By maintaining poise and optimising our outlook, we ensure that the collective future is not just a final stop but a masterpiece we are painting together. Once we stop questioning our self-belief, we finally gain that glimpse of the brilliant horizon that awaits us. Simply put, a closed door is often life's way of guiding us towards a more purposeful entrance.

NEET re-exam: Pradhan orders crackdown on misinformation

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday held a high-level meeting with security agencies to review preparations for the upcoming NEET-UG re-examination.

Dharmendra Pradhan

In a separate meeting with representatives of social media companies, including Meta, Google and Telegram, Pradhan ordered a crackdown on fake Telegram channels, asking them to proactively detect and block misinformation networks ahead of the exams.

The minister raised "serious concerns" over the growing spread of misinformation related to competitive examinations, particularly through Telegram channels and anonymous online groups.

UGC-NET June 2026 application deadline extended

NEW DELHI, PTI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Wednesday extended the last date for submission of online application forms for the UGC-NET June 2026 examination till May 23.

In a post on X, the agency said the last date for submission of application forms has been extended from May 20 to May 23, up to 10 am.

The last date for payment of the examination fee has also been extended till May 23 up to 11.50 pm.

The correction window for editing particulars in the application form will now remain open from May 25 to May 27 till 11.50 pm, instead of the earlier schedule of May 22 to May 24.

HC junks PIL to deregister AAP, bar Kejriwal from contesting polls

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed a PIL seeking a direction to the Election Commission to deregister the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and disqualify its chief Arvind Kejriwal and other leaders from contesting elections for boycotting HC proceedings in the liquor policy case.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said the petition by Satish Kumar Aggarwal was bereft of any merit and his contention was "too far-fetched, highly misconceived and misplaced".

Voted into power, but J&K legislators caught in governance void

Several MLAs say authority is concentrated with bureaucracy under UT rule

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

When voters in Jammu and Kashmir turned out in large numbers during the 2024 Assembly elections, many saw it as a return to democratic politics after years of central rule following the revocation of the special status of the erstwhile state.

In several constituencies across the Union Territory (UT), long queues outside polling stations reflected public expectations that an elected government would restore accountability and reconnect people with decision-making through their MLAs.

But one and a half years after the formation of the government led by Omar Abdullah, many legislators across party lines privately admit that power remains concentrated not with elected representatives, but with the bureaucracy functioning under the UT structure. The frustration is increasingly spilling into public view.

Last year, ruling National Conference (NC) MLA Ali Mohammad Dar was seen in a viral video being pushed away by officials during a demolition drive against alleged illegal brick kilns in Budgam district. The incident triggered outrage among political workers and reinforced a growing perception that bureaucrats no longer view legislators as centres of authority.

The deeper unease, however, is no longer limited to Opposition benches. In March 2025, NC MLA Bashir Ahmad Veeri openly accused his party's chief whip of running the Assembly through "dictatorship" after he was allegedly denied an opportunity to speak in the House.

MANDATE WITHOUT MUSCLE
■ High turnout in 2024 elections marked return to democratic politics in Jammu & Kashmir
■ Voters expected accountability through elected MLAs
■ MLAs across parties complain that officers report to L-G
■ Centre defends structure, citing transparency and reduced corruption
■ Power lies with bureaucracy despite Omar Abdullah government in place

The protest caused visible embarrassment to the ruling party and prompted Abdullah to take Veeri outside the Assembly chamber for discussions. Weeks later, Veeri again drew attention inside the Assembly when he emotionally appealed for discussion on a private member's bill related to reservations. Breaking down during his speech, he said he had promised young people in his constituency that he would raise their concerns in the House. However, the bill failed to move forward, and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary later dismissed the episode as "theatrics".

The incidents have highlighted a broader political reality emerging in J&K after 2019 — that even ruling party legislators increasingly feel constrained within a heavily centralised governance system.

Before the constitutional changes, MLAs often acted as influential intermediaries capable of affecting transfers, speeding up development works and directly intervening with district officials. Today, legislators across parties complain that officers primarily report to the Lieutenant Governor-led administration rather than elected representatives.

Veteran CPM leader and five-time MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami has publicly stated that official communications from legislators frequently go unanswered — something he says was uncommon before 2019.

For ordinary people, however, expectations remain unchanged. Residents still approach MLAs seeking jobs, roads, healthcare facilities, water supply and intervention in administrative matters, believing electoral victory translates into authority.

Cong to be in TN Cabinet after 59 years

AIADMK rebels lose; VCK & IUML to join govt

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay will expand his Council of Ministers on Thursday by inducting legislators from his TVK and the Congress, marking the formation of the first coalition government in the state since 1952.

This will also be a "historic occasion" for the Congress, which will join the Tamil Nadu Cabinet after a "long gap of 59 years", said Congress General Secretary K C Venugopal.

After it was thrown out of power by DMK in 1967, the Congress has never been part of any government in Tamil Nadu.

Venugopal confirmed that party president Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the induction of S Rajesh Kumar and P Vishwanathan into the Cabinet on Thursday.

While the Congress is rejoicing, the 25 rebel MLAs from AIADMK who supported the TVK government during a floor test last week, have bad news as none will be inducted into the Cabinet for now.

Chief Minister Vijay has faced immense pressure from alliance partners not to accommodate the rebel MLAs. The decision also aligns with Vijay's keenness to protect his anti-BJP image by maintaining a strict distance from parties that allied with BJP in the past elections.

The splinter group's prospects were further damaged by a slew of corruption cases against former ministers like S P Velumani and C Vijaybaskar.

Rebel Rubble
Vijay has faced pressure from alliance partners not to include AIADMK in the Cabinet
■ The decision aligns with Vijay's move to protect his anti-BJP image
■ Graft cases against C Vijaybaskar and S P Velumani also rained on the AIADMK rebels' parade

The rebel MLAs might also face disqualification for voting against the "party whip" if the AIADMK led by Palaniswami insists on the move.

Also, "the CM and his colleagues felt that inducting the AIADMK MLAs would damage the party's reputation at a time when opposition parties are accusing the TVK of horse-trading", a source told *DH*.

Meanwhile, VCK and IUML have decided to join the government but their ministers are unlikely to be sworn in on Thursday. VCK has nominated Vanni Arasu to the Cabinet, and IUML is yet to announce its nominee.

With VCK and IUML deciding to join the TVK government, it would mark their official exit from the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance.

The Cabinet expansion will take place at 10 am on Thursday with the swearing-in of 21 ministers, sources said.

Cong notice to its leaders over impromptu visit to Maya's house

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Congress has issued a show-cause notice to several of its Dalit leaders who visited BSP chief Mayawati's residence here uninvited on Tuesday evening and were turned away at the gate, seeking an explanation for their "unauthorised" act.

Rajendra Pal Gautam

As the party was left red-faced, Congress Scheduled Caste Department national chairman Rajendra Pal Gautam and the department's Uttar Pradesh president and MP Tanuj Punia, who were among the leaders who landed at the BSP chief's residence but could not meet her, maintained on Wednesday that it was an "impromptu courtesy visit" with no political overtones.

Meanwhile, Congress's UP in-charge Avinash Pande said that the party had taken note of the visit. "This was not an authorised delegation from the party. The party has taken cognisance of the matter and issued show-cause notices," Pande said. He added that while the Congress holds Mayawati in "high esteem", the leaders who visited her residence had done so in their individual capacity and not on behalf of the party.

"We had held a meeting at the party office here, and after that we decided to go to Mayawati's residence to inquire about her health... it was not pre-planned," Punia later said, even as speculations were rife that the visit was intended to explore the possibility of a tie-up in the next Assembly polls.

Incidentally, the attempt came barely a day after Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav's comments that his party's alliance with the Congress would continue.

(*With PTI inputs*)

Kerala portfolios out; CM Satheesan to hold finance

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala has finalised Cabinet portfolios, with Chief Minister VD Satheesan retaining finance, law and ports, while senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala takes charge of home and vigilance.

Despite pressure from the Latin Catholic Church, the fisheries portfolio has been allotted to the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML). VE Abdul Gafoor will serve as the fisheries minister. The church had insisted the post be given to a representative from its community, citing its strong presence among fishermen. However, the Congress did not have a minister from the Latin Catholic community to accommodate the demand.

Even as the BJP campaigned against allotting the education portfolio to the IUML, the general education portfolio has gone to N Samsudheen of the IUML, while higher education has been assigned to Congress' Roji M John.

Satheesan is handling about 30 additional departments, including general administration and disaster management, which are usually vested in chief ministers.

IUML senior leader PK Kunhalikutty will continue to hold the IT and Industries portfolio, a post he handled in the previous UDF ministry as well. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunny Joseph has been named the electricity minister.

The other key portfolio allocations are: AP Anil Kumar (revenue), K Muraleedharan (health), Mons Joseph (irrigation), Shibu Baby John (forest), Anoop Jacob (food and civil supplies), CP John (transport), PC Vishnunath (tourism and culture), Bindhu Krishna (labour), KA Thulasi (SC/ST welfare), M Liju (excise and corporation), KM Shaji (local self-government), PK Basheer (public works), T Siddique (agriculture), and OJ Janeesh (sports and youth affairs).

At its meeting on Wednesday, the Cabinet decided to launch a 100-day action plan from June 1 to begin implementing the assurances made by the UDF during the elections. All departments have been directed to ensure the promises are fulfilled before the government's term ends in 2031. A 'Vision 2031' programme will also be rolled out, the CM said.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar congratulates veteran lawmaker G Sudhakaran after the latter took oath as the pro tem Speaker of the state Assembly during a ceremony, in Thiruvananthapuram. Chief Minister VD Satheesan is also seen. PTI

UDF CABINET

- CM Satheesan to hold finance, law, ports
- Chennithala gets home, vigilance
- Education portfolios split between IUML and Congress
- Kunhalikutty retains IT, industries
- Cabinet launches 100-day action plan

Affected people rejoice as UDF scraps SilverLine

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The United Democratic Front government in Kerala has scrapped the SilverLine semi-high speed rail project -- a flagship project of the previous CPM-led LDF government that failed to take off due to public resistance.

The VD Satheesan-led Cabinet's decision on Wednesday led to celebrations by families who were facing the threat of eviction for the project.

Moreover, the government's decision to remove all the demarcation stones laid across the state for the project and withdraw all cases registered in connection with protests against the project gave more reasons to cheer.

People were seen distributing sweets. Environmentalists and experts also welcomed the decision.

Satheesan said several families were unable to sell or pledge their lands to fund education, medical treatment or marriage. Also, UDF was opposing SilverLine.

UDF would explore an environment-friendly alternative, he added.

Around 3,000 acres were earmarked for the 530-km project, which aimed to reduce travel time between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasaragod by around four hours.

Infiltrators in Bengal will be directly handed over to BSF: Suvendu

KOLKATA, PTI: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday announced the implementation of a mechanism under which infiltrators detained by state police would be handed over directly to the BSF for deportation, while unveiling what he described as part of a broader "detect, delete and deport" framework.

Suvendu Adhikari

Adhikari said those communities covered under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) would remain outside the ambit of the new mechanism, while others identified as infiltrators would face action with immediate effect.

"A letter was sent by the Centre to the state on May 14 last year regarding the direct handover of infiltrators to the BSF, but the previous government failed to implement this important provision," the CM said.

"Under the CAA, the communities covered by it have been named, and those who came (to India) till December 31, 2024, are protected, and police cannot detain them," he added. Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians are covered under the law.

NCP factions' merger off the table; NCP(SP) to strengthen party

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The possibility of a merger between NCP and NCP (SP) is now a matter of the past, and it became clear after a review meeting of the latter on Wednesday.

NCP (SP) state president Shashikant Shinde, considered a close aide of party supremo Sharad Pawar, declared that the merger was now completely over.

His remarks came after an organisational review meeting on Wednesday chaired by Sharad Pawar. "I want to make it very clear that the issue of merger between the NCP and NCP (SP) has ended. This issue will not be discussed anymore," said Shinde, a former minister.

"The discussions took place when Ajit Pawar (the then deputy chief minister and NCP national president, who died in a plane crash earlier this year) was alive. Unfortunately, he is no more," he reiterated.

Shinde said the NCP (SP) would focus on strengthening its organisation in the coming months. "After August 15, the Maha Vikas Aghadi partners — the Congress, NCP (SP) and the Shiv Sena (UBT) — will also hold meetings," he added.

The development assumes significance at a time when both NCP factions are witnessing internal tensions.

In NCP, led by Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar, senior leaders such as national working president Praful Patel and state president Sunil Tatkare are perceived to have been sidelined as Sunetra and her sons — Rajya Sabha member Parth and Jay — tighten their grip over the organisation.

On the NCP (SP) front, there have been signs of unease, particularly after party MLA Rohit Pawar recently hinted that some leaders were not functioning as expected.

Rohit skipped the meeting, though he later clarified that he had rushed to Karjat-Jamkhed in Ahilyanagar district and Baramati in Pune to address farmers' water supply issues.

On Rohit's remarks, Shinde said he had not heard the statement made in the media. Dismissing reports that several NCP leaders and around 22 MLAs were unhappy and preparing to switch sides, he said there was no such proposal before the party.

Rahul's 'traitor' attack sparks BJP fury

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP on Wednesday hit back sharply at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after he urged people to tell RSS workers that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and the organisation itself were "traitors".

The BJP said his remarks and language echoed narratives used by Pakistan and Pakistan-backed terrorists, escalating the war of words between the Opposition and the ruling party.

Leading the charge was party president Nitin Nabin, who said Rahul had "lost his mental balance".

"The kind of statement he gave clearly reflects his anarchic mindset and character. The remarks also show his frustration and disappointment with his party facing electoral defeats," he added. "The man who curbed terror incidents, ended Naxalism, and enhanced respect for the tiranga — you use such words for a leader like this?" he asked.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives the prestigious Agricola Medal from Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations Qu Dongyu in Rome. He was honoured for his contribution to food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. PTI

'Yuvraj frustrated'

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath claimed Rahul was driven by frustration and negative politics. "The Congress, the mother of divisive and appeasement politics, has a 'Yuvraj' whose indecent remark reflects his negative politics, unrestrained thinking, and utter disrespect for democratic values," he posted on X.

"... (these) utterly reprehensible remarks against the RSS are also an insult to the mandate, trust, and democratic ethos of 145 crore countrymen," he said.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said he was not surprised that Congress is losing public support. "I wonder how Congress people don't realise that it's their leader & spokespersons who are pushing away even those people who are politically neutral. Congress can't read people's pulse, public hate negative politics," he said.

The controversy erupted after Rahul, during an interaction with party workers, reportedly said that people should confront RSS members and tell them that Modi, Shah and the RSS had "betrayed" the country.

'Melody amid misery': Cong slams PM's toffee gesture during crisis

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Top Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on Narendra Modi, claiming the Prime Minister was busy handing out candies in Italy while an "economic storm" was raging across India and people were struggling to survive the "misery" of his "government's loot".

Both leaders cited the instance of Modi gifting a packet of 'Melody' toffees to his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni to highlight the country's economic troubles following the West Asia crisis and the Prime Minister's advice to people to follow austerity measures.

Congress president Kharge said Modi wanted the public to enjoy the "melody" of speeches while surviving the "misery" of his government's "loot". He said the average debt per Indian had increased 11-fold during Modi's tenure, while the wealth of 229 tycoons and 26 newly added billionaires had crossed Rs 97.50 lakh crore.

"Every aspect of the economy is suffering, but Modi-ji continues his PR, lecturing citizens to shoulder the burden of this grave economic storm," Kharge said.

He said more than Rs 43 lakh crore had been extracted from citizens through taxes and excise duties on fuel, adding that recent fuel price hikes had generated around Rs 12,400 crore for oil companies while households were "left suffocating under relentless price pressure".

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Congress president

"Modi ji wants the public to enjoy the 'melody' of speeches while surviving the 'misery' of his government's loot.

SUPRIYA SHRINATE
Congress spokesperson

"I understand at the age of 75, Prime Minister Modi feels fatherly love towards most 49 year olds - including Italian Prime Minister Meloni. So he carried toffees for her. But this isn't appropriate gift from a head of state. It's Cringe Pro Max!

90 paper leaks

Kharge also highlighted rising LPG and commercial cylinder prices, unemployment and repeated examination paper leaks. He claimed youth unemployment had surged to 15.2% in March 2026, while 90 examination papers had leaked during 10 years of BJP rule.

Referring to the "sinking rupee", he said the currency had hit an "all-time low" of Rs 96.90 against the dollar, while India's foreign exchange reserves had fallen by around USD 38 billion since the West Asia conflict began.

He also claimed FPI outflows from equity markets had reached Rs 2.2 lakh crore so far in 2026.

After Meiteis, Nagas want Centre to end pact with Kuki militants

Ask DyCM Nemcha Kipgen to quit over husband's link with armed group

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The ongoing conflict in Manipur took a new turn with Naga organisations on Wednesday demanding abrogation of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki armed groups amid the growing tension over the hostage crisis.

The Nagas' demand echoes the Meiteis' since the beginning of the ethnic clashes in the state in May 2023.

In a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi submitted on Wednesday, the Naga Women's Organisation said, "The SoO has allowed the Kuki armed groups to operate like terrorists in our land and rob us of hard-earned peace. We continue to uphold despite its fragility. Series of unfolding undeniable incidents and evidences have testified that SoO is being given the licence to use sophisticated arms and weapons with impunity to terrorise not only the Nagas but the Meiteis and their own public too. We seek restoration of peace and normalcy in our land before more lives are lost. Our youths are seething in anger seeing the land being destroyed and your intervention will change the situation for all to enjoy peace and prosperity in our land."

The organisation protested in Naga-dominated Senapati district, demanding release of the six Nagas, who are among the 20 hostages.

The Naga protesters staged similar demonstration in several districts, including in the Meitei-dominated Valley, where the anti-Kuki sentiments have remained strong since the conflict in 2023.

Some Naga groups demanded resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki, as her husband is part of one of the armed groups under the SoO agreement. Naga groups have also enforced blockade on a stretch of NH-2.

The SoO agreements were signed with more than 25 Kuki armed groups several years ago, and their cadres have been stationed at several designated camps.

Kuki organisations, however, have denied the allegation about involvement of the groups under SoO agreements in the ongoing conflict.

The Kuki organisations have called a meeting with their leaders on Thursday (May 21) at Tuibuong in Churachandpur district to chalk out the next course of action.

The Kuki-Zo Council on Wednesday said they have decided to withdraw the "social boycott" imposed on the Kuki MLAs in February in view of the changing situation.

Top court seeks Centre's reply on liquor packaging plea

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre and others on a plea seeking an immediate ban on the sale of alcohol in "inconspicuous" packaging formats such as tetra packs, sachets and other portable containers.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi sought responses from the Union government and others after hearing advocate Vipin Nair, who represented the petitioner, 'Community Against Drunken Driving'.

The counsel said the definition of "bottle" was "vague" under the excise regime and required standardisation.

The plea challenged the broad and varying definitions of "bottling" and "bottle" under different state excise laws, which permitted alcohol to be packaged in receptacles described as "flasks", "pots", "baskets", "wrappers" and other similar containers.

The plea stated that it was alarming that these tetra packs were marketed under labels such as "Bunty Premium Vodka" and "Premium Romanov Vodka – Apple Thrill", which were clearly intended to mislead consumers.

"The use of fruit names alongside colour photographs of apples, mangoes on packaging further reinforces this deception. This reflects a deliberate marketing strategy to pass off alcoholic beverages as fruit juices," the counsel said.

Mediclaim benefits can't be deducted from compensation: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said a sum received as part of mediclaim or medical insurance is not to be deducted from compensation as calculated by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal under the Motor Vehicles Act.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Vipul M Pancholi emphasised that just because the mediclaim and the compensation under the head of medical expenses appeared similar, they cannot be termed a "double benefit," as these two stand on a different footing.

The court pointed out that one is statutory while the other is contractual and the latter is only a sequitur of premiums having been paid in the past, while the other is an entitlement as a consequence of an accident in a motor vehicle accident. The bench dismissed an appeal filed by New India Assurance Company Limited, in its judgment on May 15.

The issue was whether it is legally permissible for the MACT to account for the amounts received under the medical insurance claim and, as such, deduct the same.

Answering the question, the bench said, "We are of the considered opinion that the answer to the question raised in this appeal is not a matter of Sherlockian deduction."

The bench pointed out that the guiding yardstick in mediclaim vis-à-vis MVA is different.

In the former, a mediclaim policy is taken up to a certain amount and if the claim of the policy holder once found to be holding merit go beyond it, the holder has no option but to foot the bill out of pocket however in the latter, because of its beneficial nature the only guide is the broad principle of just and fair compensation. Put differently, the compensation that may be awarded thereunder has no strict monetary limits, the court said.

"The amount received under MVA arises from a beneficial legislation, which is intended to put the the claimants in a position, at least monetarily, if accident in question had not taken place," the bench said.

Bhopal court orders preservation of Twisha's body, rejects plea for 2nd autopsy

BHOPAL, PTI: A local court on Wednesday directed that the body of Noida woman Twisha Sharma, who was found hanging at her marital home here last week following alleged harassment for dowry, be preserved, but rejected her family's plea for a second autopsy.

Judicial Magistrate First Class Anudita Gupta said a letter be issued to police directing them to immediately obtain information regarding "low-temperture preservation facility" in Madhya Pradesh, and submit a report to court without delay.

A detailed order is awaited.

Earlier in the day, the city police urged the woman's family to take custody of her body as it could begin decomposing.

Twisha Sharma (33), daughter-in-law of a retired judge, was found hanging at her marital home here. On Tuesday, the court had called for the case diary before deciding on her parents' application that her body be preserved and a second postmortem examination be conducted outside the state.

In their plea, Twisha's family claimed there were flaws in the investigation and pointed out, among other things, that the FIR was registered three days after she was found dead.

The investigators did not provide the "ligature" (the belt allegedly used in the hanging) when the first post-mortem examination was conducted at a hospital here, the plea said.

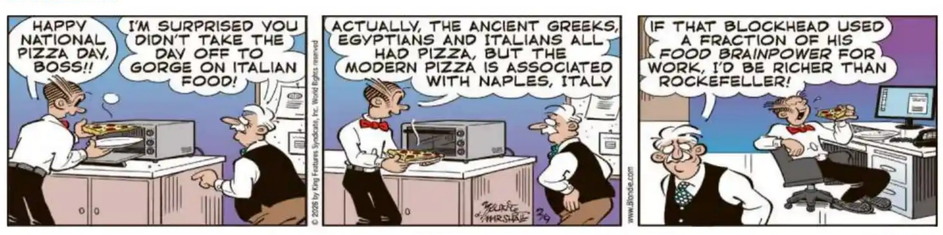
The family sought a second post-mortem examination at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Delhi, according to their lawyer Ankur Pandey.

They apprehended that as her mother-in-law, retired additional district judge Giribala Singh's sister is a Bhopal-based surgeon, she could influence the second autopsy, he said.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


HAPPY NATIONAL PIZZA DAY, BOSS!!
I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T TAKE THE DAY OFF TO GORGE ON ITALIAN FOOD!
ACTUALLY, THE ANCIENT GREEKS, EGYPTIANS AND ITALIANS ALL HAD PIZZA, BUT THE MODERN PIZZA IS ASSOCIATED WITH NAPLES, ITALY
IF THAT BLOCKHEAD USED A FRACTION OF HIS FOOD BRAINPOWER FOR WORK, I'D BE RICHER THAN ROCKEFELLER!

Hagar The Horrible

I CAN SHOW YOU A HOME WITH GRANITE KITCHEN COUNTERTOPS!
REAL ES
THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL!
DID I MENTION IT ALSO HAS GRANITE FLOORS, WALLS AND CEILINGS?
FOR SALE

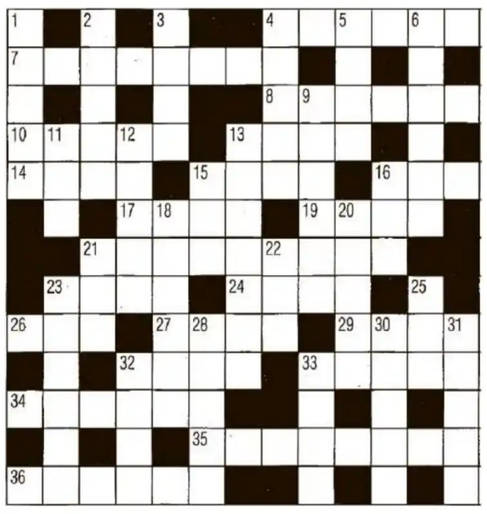
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

"THE RAIN CAME DOWN HARDER AND HARDER"
"BUT THE MAN IN THE YELLOW SLICKER AND BIG RUBBER BOOTS NEVER FALTERED"
"ANOTHER CHRISTMAS EVE HAD PASSED, AND SANTA AND HIS RAIN GEAR HAD DONE THEIR JOB! THE END"
HA HA HA! HA HA! HA HA!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12421



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Deeply impressed by the impact (6)
7 Speak to a very quiet swimmer (8)
8 Do they confess to a proprietorial interest? (6)
10 Cool headed flier involved in crime (5)
13 A Welshman's platform? (4)
14 An outstanding feature of the unicorn (4)
15 A shipping body (4)
16 Does it hint at some more danger? (3)
17 Drinks to help the digestion of eats? (4)
19 Pull out a result (4)
21 As for beet, it's cooked and eaten (5,4)
23 Cleans up after many operations (4)
24 Further from Rome (4)
26 Central figures (3)
27 Is such jazz not quite the business? (4)
29 Figure most of the meal is meat (4)
32 He may have a chapter to himself (4)
33 He showed some cleverness as a writer (5)
34 As possibly to go round a planet (6)
35 Chief cry used by American parachutists (8)
36 The girl in the shrubbery (6)

DOWN
1 Walk for weeks (5)
2 Some sign of a former beastly presence (5)
3 Play half-back in hospital! (4)
4 Many swimmers love to lash out wildly! (5)
5 Those dashingly scored? (4)
6 A bird dog by name (6)
9 Did Billy make more madcap movies? (6)
11 Steal the heart of an acrobat (3)
12 Superior location of the fringe of Surrey (2,3)
13 His labours lead to a load of rubbish (7)
15 Is bound to be in haste (3)
16 Ultrafine service? (3)
18 One egg per year! (6)
20 It's about a woman, and that's official (5)
21 Aerodynamic part of a piston (3)
22 A short, maybe odd person (3)
23 Title applied to many a nice woman (6)
25 Billy, perhaps, though Charlie has one (3)
28 Cowboy's riding distance? (5)
30 You're lucky if he sends you fifty quid (5)
31 Bitter variety of melon (5)
32 A harmonious partnership (4)
33 Violin part rarely played nowadays (4)

ACROSS
4 Stiffening agent (6)
7 High and mighty (8)
8 Waterproof coat (6)
10 Book of maps (5)
13 Robbery, slang (4)
14 Slay (4)
15 Ruminant mammal (4)
16 Someone's favourite (3)
17 Sediment (4)
19 Complain bitterly (4)
21 Golf term (4,2,3)
23 Abominable snowman (4)
24 Soft fine feathers (4)
26 For every (3)
27 Ship's company (4)
29 On top of (4)
32 Fibs (4)
33 Genetic copy (5)
34 Baas (6)
35 Case or particular example (8)
36 European country (6)

DOWN
1 Canoe-like boat (5)
2 Tool for boring holes (5)
3 Relatively long time (4)
4 Not fresh (5)
5 Eager, astir (4)
6 House of God (6)
9 Opposite of wide (6)
11 Gratuity (3)
12 Give out (5)
13 Apart from (7)
15 Scottish river (3)
16 Baked food (3)
18 Give rise to (6)
20 Rescind (5)
21 That woman (3)
22 At present (3)
23 Colour (6)
25 Was victorious (3)
28 Tree sap (5)
30 Unit of weight (5)
31 Not ever (5)
32 Cooking fat (4)
33 Incisions (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12420

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Jacket 7, Out-break 8, Pier (peer) 10, P-rove-n 11, La-test 14, O'er 16, Lance(-jack) 17, Rips 19, Senor 21, Hare-M 22, Kitty 23, B-ath 26, Sa-VE-d 28, Sir 29, Player 30, Buster 31, Rely 32, Resource 33, Way out.
DOWN: 1, Jumper 2, Knives 3, Torn 4, Abs-alom 5, He-Len 6, Skate 8, Poop 9, E'er 12, Tar 13, Scout 15, Pert-h 18, I-Deal 19, Sat 20, Ney 21, Hideout 22, Key 23, B-isle-y 24, Arty 25, Hermit(-age) 26, Sport 27, Valse 28, Sue 30, BR-ew.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Gung ho 7, Pinafore 8, Halt 10, Exiles 11, Safari 14, Sit 16, Venus 17, Else 19, Topaz 21, Gamin 22, Vixen 23, Best 26, Cheer 28, Jar 29, Rental 30, Garage 31, Ebbs 32, Barefoot 33, Strike.
DOWN: 1, Greece 2, Goalie 3, Opts 4, Caravan 5, Koran 6, Denis 8, Hiss 9, Let 12, Fez 13, Rules 15, Women 18, Lithe 19, Tax 20, Pin 21, Giraffe 22, Vet 23, Barber 24, Eras 25, Treble 26, Cribs 27, Entry 28, Jab 30, Gets.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6911 ◆

		7	6					1
				8	1	7		
1	6					5		4
				4	6		5	7
5								3
6	3		1	5				
7		9					3	2
		5	9	1				
					4	1		

medium

2	8	6	7	3	9	5	1	4
1	4	9	6	8	5	2	7	3
7	3	5	4	2	1	8	6	9
8	9	3	5	6	7	4	2	1
6	7	1	2	4	3	9	5	8
5	2	4	9	1	8	7	3	6
3	1	7	8	9	2	6	4	5
4	5	8	3	7	6	1	9	2
9	6	2	1	5	4	3	8	7

SOLUTION TO 6910

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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								RACK 1
E1	H4	D2	A1	E1	D2	A1	1st Letter Triple	
								RACK 2
I1	I1	M3	M3	U1	Y4	Y4	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 3
U1	M3	C3	L1	H4	M3	Y4		
								RACK 4
I1	A1	A1	N1	L1	M3	M3	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 5
F4	I1	U1	F4	C3	E1	S1		

PAR SCORE 150-160
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3	U1	R1	V4	I1	E1	W4	RACK 1 =	69
M3	A1	N1	U1	A1	L1	S1	RACK 2 =	59
T1	O1	U1	R1	I1	S1	T1	RACK 3 =	64
S1	E1	E1	M3	I1	N1	G2	RACK 4 =	80
							JUDD'S TOTAL	272

PAR SCORE 180-190

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OSMEU

RAEPO

GUEOHN

SGPSIO

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Berry, you're too much! Let's try this "Hurry Love" song.
Diana, you may have the best voice I've ever heard! Let's make another hit!
WHEN IT CAME TO BEING A LEAD SINGER, DIANA ROSS WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLOSS GAFFE DENTAL CAVIAR
Answer: The meteorologist bought a new fishing pole — FOR CASTING

HITORI-3365

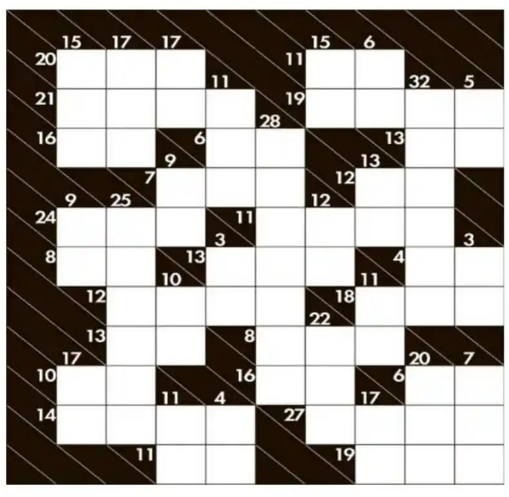
2	8	1	4	3	6	2	2
5	1	2	7	6	8	4	2
8	6	5	6	7	6	6	1
4	3	7	6	2	4	1	5
3	6	8	4	5	2	5	7
5	5	6	4	8	3	7	5
6	2	4	7	1	7	5	3
2	7	1	2	4	5	6	8

SOLUTION TO 3364

6	4	■	8	3	■	5	■
■	2	8	■	1	5	6	3
5	■	6	7	8	■	4	■
3	8	■	6	7	2	■	1
■	3	4	5	■	6	7	2
2	■	7	■	6	1	8	■
8	6	1	2	■	3	■	7
■	1	■	4	2	7	3	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3365



SOLUTION TO 3364

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3922

■			5					3
	3		4				■	
		■		3		■	1	
	7		■		9			
5	9	8		■	6			
	1		■		8	3		
	8	■				6		
	■					4	■	
					4		2	1

SOLUTION TO 3921

1	2	9	5	6	4	3	7	8
3	6	7	1	9	8	5	2	4
4	8	5	3	7	2	1	9	6
9	7	4	2	1	5	6	8	3
2	3	6	8	4	9	7	1	5
5	1	8	6	3	7	9	4	2
6	4	3	9	2	1	8	5	7
8	9	2	7	5	6	4	3	1
7	5	1	4	8	3	2	6	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

UAPA bail curbs: Delhi Police seek larger bench reference

Cite 'conflicting' views on relief under anti-terror law

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Sharjeel Imam

Umar Khalid

The Delhi Police told the Supreme Court that the question of granting bail under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) may need to be examined by a larger bench, given apparently conflicting rulings by co-ordinate benches on the statutory bar to relief under the anti-terror law.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju cited the May 18 judgment in the case of Syed Iftikhar Andrabi before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and PB Varale. The court was hearing bail pleas filed by Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" accused Tasleem Ahmed and Khalid Saifi, challenging the Delhi High Court's refusal to grant them bail.

On Wednesday, Raju again submitted that he needed time to examine the SC's judgment in the Andrabi case.

He said he would like to make his submissions while considering that ruling, which has questioned the verdict denying bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case.

DELHI RIOTS CASE

- SC was hearing bail pleas of Delhi riots 'larger conspiracy' accused
- Pleas challenged Delhi High Court's refusal to grant bail
- ASG Raju cites May 18 Andrabi ruling
- Court defers hearing to May 22
- Earlier, SC bench questioned bail denial to Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam

The bench posted the matter for hearing on May 22 and asked Raju to make submissions on that date.

Senior advocate Rebecca John appeared for Saifi, while advocates Mehmood Pracha and RHS Sikander appeared for Ahmed.

On May 18, a bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan held that bail remains the rule even in UAPA cases and expressed reservations about the judgment that declined bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam.

On January 5, the apex court granted bail to five accused in the Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" case and declined bail to Khalid and Imam.

In the Andrabi case, Justice Bhuyan questioned the correctness of the rulings in Khalid and Gurwinder Singh, both authored by Justice Aravind Kumar.

Justice Bhuyan observed that the denial of bail to Khalid and Imam appeared to have overlooked the three-judge ruling in Union of India v KA Najeeb, which held that prolonged incarceration and the improbability of an early conclusion of trial can justify bail even in UAPA cases.

On Tuesday, Raju said the question of whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override restrictions on bail under anti-terror laws may warrant consideration by a larger bench.

Core zone tigers too stressed due to tourism: Study

While buffer-zone tigers have habituated to human presence

HYDERABAD, DHNS

Challenging the assumption that core zones in tiger reserves are uniformly low-stress areas for the big cats, a group of Hyderabad-based researchers found that tigers in the strictly protected zones showed higher stress response to human-caused disturbance than those in the multi-use buffer zones that may have an effect on breeding.

Buffer-zone tigers appear to have habituated to year-round human presence, whereas core-zone tigers register sharp spikes in stress when seasonal tourism enters these areas.

This challenges the assumption that core zones are uniformly low-stress refuges. The effect was most pronounced in Tadoba and Bandhavgarh.

The study, published in the Zoological Society of London journal Animal Conservation,

is the first to combine non-invasive stress and reproductive hormone analyses from tigers across five major Indian tiger reserves — Corbett (Uttarakhand), Tadoba–Andhari (Maharashtra), Kanha and Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh) and Periyar (Kerala).

The team analysed 610 genetically confirmed tiger scat samples, including 291 females and 185 males, collected between 2020 and 2023. Across all reserves, tigers ranging close to tourism roads and in areas with greater human disturbance consistently showed elevated stress hormone levels.

"Tigresses prefer to breed in the quiet parts of the forests. However, it is becoming difficult to find such suitable areas. In Tadoba and Corbett, the buffer zones already have high tiger populations. It is concerning if the core areas of the forests also become stressful for the tigresses," said Dr Umapathy, Chief Scientist at CSIR-CCMB.

"Not only is the reproductive success of tigers lower under stress, but the young ones will also grow up differently in such conditions," he said.

Expert suggestions

The study suggested key management recommendations, including strict regulation of tourist vehicle numbers and prevention of vehicle crowding at tiger sightings; reduction of safari duration by approximately one hour in both morning and evening sessions, amongothers.

Andhra pastor booked for staging attack on himself

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A 38-year-old pastor who allegedly faked a murder attempt on himself to incite communal unrest in Andhra Pradesh has been booked by police.

Social media posts circulated three days ago purportedly showed Kadapa-based pastor Dara Abhinay Darshan being chased and attacked while travelling in his vehicle by locals in the tribal village of Neeruthotapalem in Alluri Seetaramaraju district.

However, investigations revealed that the alleged attack was part of a conspiracy orchestrated by Darshan and associates. According to police, the accused mobilised locals from Dumbriguda and nearby areas through inducements and monetary payments to participate in the staged assault.

"Investigation further revealed that the incident was allegedly pre-planned, recorded, and subsequently circulated through social media platforms with the intention of creating fear, disturbing communal harmony, and spreading public unrest," said Amit Bardar, Alluri Seetaramaraju District Superintendent of Police.

Police also suspect a broader political motive behind the staged attack, linked to Darshan's efforts to float a political party. Darshan had formed the Bharosa Party on March 26, with a launch event reportedly held in Kakinada.

"The alleged conspiracy behind the Bharosa Party incident was purportedly aimed at creating a sensational attack narrative to gain political mileage, attract public sympathy, increase social media attention, and provoke communal tension and unrest in Andhra Pradesh," a senior police official said.

In February, Darshan had reportedly visited Pedabaya village in Ananthagiri Mandal, holding meetings with pastors to lay the groundwork for a political party. Police said he conducted political campaigns and outreach activities in tribal and agency areas, mobilising minority and Christian communities in the process.

Darshan and his associates have been booked at Gudem Kotha Veedhi Police Station under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Heatwave grips North India; UP's Banda records season's hottest day at 48°C

NEW DELHI, PTI

North India reeled under an intense heatwave on Wednesday, with Uttar Pradesh's Banda district recording the highest temperature in the country at 48° Celsius, 4.5 notches above normal.

In Delhi, the Ridge base station recorded the maximum temperature at 45.8°, making it the hottest location in the national capital. The Safdarjung weather station, which serves as the primary base for Delhi's weather, recorded a maximum temperature of 44.5°C.

In UP, Banda district was the hottest place in the country at 48°C amid dry weather conditions. The regional meteorological department issued a severe heatwave alert for several places for the next week.

The weather office issued a yellow warning for the next three days and an orange warning thereafter in view of heatwave to severe heatwave conditions and warm nights.

In Rajasthan, Sriganganagar remained the hottest place, with the mercury soaring to 46.5°C. Most parts of the state continued to reel under intense heat, the meteorological department said.

A cow walks on the dried-up bed of Sanjay Lake amid heatwave conditions, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. PTI

Punjab and Haryana also reeled under a severe heatwave, with temperatures touching 47°C. Haryana's Rohtak witnessed maximum temperatures reaching 46.9°C, while Punjab's Bathinda recorded 46.6°C.

The maximum temperature in Chandigarh recorded the season's highest at 44.4°C compared to Tuesday's 43.2°C.

The hill state of Himachal also experienced heatwave conditions, with the maximum temperature reaching 44° in the plains.

In the neighbouring Uttarakhand, the maximum temperature hovered around 40°C.

India's peak power demand hits record 265.44 GW

India's peak power demand surged to a new all-time high of 265.44 GW on Wednesday, marking the third consecutive day of record-breaking electricity usage as a blistering heatwave grips large parts of the country and drives up air-conditioner and cooler consumption, reports DHNS.

'Falsely implicated': SC acquits Lankan in UAPA case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court acquitted a Sri Lankan national who had been sentenced to five years in jail for alleged involvement in efforts to revive the banned LTTE, finding that he had been falsely implicated.

Arrested in December 2021 in connection with a 2015 case under the UAPA, the man maintained it was a case of "mistaken identity".

The SC found "inaction and indolence" on the part of the investigating agency. "A person who is an absconding accused in a serious UAPA matter would not dare to apply to a foreign embassy for a visa and seek a police clearance certificate from the very police station in whose jurisdiction he admittedly resided under a false identity," the SC said as it ordered his release. The appellant arrived in India in 2009, along with his wife and son, on a legally valid Sri Lankan passport and tourist visa. He was arrested on the allegation that his actual name was "Sri" alias "Ranjan" and that he was an accused in a pending case.

WORLD

China knife attack injures 3, including 2 Japanese

BEIJING, AP/PTI: A knife attack at a restaurant in Shanghai injured three people, including two Japanese citizens, China's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said Chinese authorities were investigating Tuesday's attack and that the suspect, whom he described as a person with a mental disorder, had been detained. The two Japanese nationals, along with a Chinese citizen, were taken to hospital, he added.

"I would also like to stress that media outlets and individuals should not engage in groundless speculation or make unwarranted associations," Guo said. Ties between Beijing and Tokyo have remained strained since Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said that Chinese military action against Taiwan could justify a Japanese response.

Putin, Xi hail 'unyielding' ties in talks after Trump visit

Chinese and Russian leaders deepen strategic partnership

BEIJING, AFP

Russian President Vladimir Putin with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday. REUTERS

President Xi Jinping hailed China and Russia's "unyielding" ties during talks with Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, as the two leaders met to reinforce their alliance days after Donald Trump's visit to Beijing.

Relations between the two countries have deepened since Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, with Russia becoming increasingly dependent on China, its largest oil customer.

Putin was welcomed by Xi outside Beijing's Great Hall of the People in a ceremony similar to the reception given to Trump last week, complete with chanting children and military fanfare.

However, the tone was notably warmer, with Xi telling the Russian leader that Beijing and Moscow had "continuously deepened our political mutual trust and strategic coordination with a resilience that remains unyielding", according to Chinese state media.

Opening the talks, both leaders praised the close relationship between their countries as they extended their treaty of "friendly cooperation". Putin, quoting a Chinese saying, told Xi: "A day apart feels like three autumns," adding that relations had reached an "unprecedentedly high level" despite "unfavourable external factors", according to Russian media footage. In an apparent reference to the US, Xi warned of "unilateral and hegemonic countercurrents running rampant" across the world. Unlike Trump's visit last week, which produced few immediate concrete outcomes, Putin and Xi signed several agreements on trade, media and energy cooperation on Wednesday.

The two leaders later held talks over tea, which the Kremlin had earlier described as reserved for "the most important issues", including Ukraine, Iran and relations with the US.

According to Russian media, the session lasted around 90 minutes before Putin departed for the airport.

Israeli lawmakers advance bill to dissolve parliament

JERUSALEM, AFP: Israeli lawmakers on Wednesday voted to advance a bill submitted by the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that would dissolve parliament and pave the way for early elections.

In a preliminary reading, 110 out of 120 lawmakers voted in favour and none against, while the rest did not cast their votes. The bill will now pass to a committee before three more parliamentary readings. If the bill is ultimately approved, it would automatically trigger elections to be held after 90 days. Polls are scheduled to take place after October 27.

Netanyahu is under pressure from ultra-Orthodox parties, while his fractious right-wing coalition appears to be facing collapse. Ultra-Orthodox parties accuse Netanyahu of failing to pass legislation that would exempt young men from their community from compulsory military service.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

(From left) Nepalese director Abinash Bikram Shah poses with the cast of the film "Elephants in the Fog" at the 79th Cannes Film Festival in France on Wednesday. AFP

WHO says risk of Ebola spreading high regionally but low globally

▸ The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Wednesday that the risk of the Ebola virus spreading in Congo and Uganda was high at national and regional levels, but low globally, AP/PTI reports from Bunia (Congo).

The assessment came as the head of the WHO team in Congo said the outbreak, which has resulted in more than 130 suspected deaths, could continue for at least another two months as efforts intensified to contain the spread. WHO has declared the Ebola outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, requiring a coordinated response. On Tuesday, it expressed concern over the "scale and speed" of the outbreak. Residents in eastern Congo reported rising prices for face masks and disinfectants following the spread of the rare Bundibugyo strain.

IRS to drop audits of Trumps

▸ The Justice Department has granted President Donald Trump, his family and businesses immunity from ongoing inquiries into their taxes, a potentially lucrative arrangement that could shield the president from significant financial liability, NYT News Service reports.

The provision, quietly inserted on Tuesday as a supplement to a remarkable deal that also created a $1.8 billion compensation fund aimed at benefiting Trump's allies, protects the president, his relatives and his businesses from pending audits and tax prosecutions. The one-page document, signed by acting attorney general Todd Blanche, said that the government would be "forever barred and precluded from prosecuting or pursuing" pending tax claims against Trump, his family members and businesses. The provision invited immediate criticism, as tax experts raised the possibility that it was illegal.

Indian-origin scientists get top S African honour

JOHANNESBURG, PTI: Two Indian-origin scientists from South Africa were among 38 people honoured with the country's highest civilian awards for their contributions to public health.

Professor Salim Abdool Karim and Professor Keertan Dheda were presented with the Order of Mapungubwe by President Cyril Ramaphosa in Pretoria on Tuesday. The award recognises South African citizens who have demonstrated excellence and exceptional achievement benefiting both South Africa and the global community.

US wants to restart war: Iran

TEHRAN, AFP

NEW PROPOSAL

- Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said on Wednesday the Islamic republic had received a new US proposal and was currently examining it, as a minister from mediator Pakistan visited Tehran.

Iran's chief negotiator said on Wednesday that the United States wanted to restart the West Asia war after President Donald Trump said he would attack again unless Tehran agreed to a peace deal.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who warned of a "forceful response", was speaking after Iran's Revolutionary Guards said any renewed war would spread far beyond West Asia.

"The enemy's movements, both overt and clandestine, show that despite economic and political pressure, it has not abandoned its military objectives and is seeking to start a new war," Ghalibaf said in an audio message carried by Iranian media.

Trump, however, left the door open to diplomacy on Wednesday, telling reporters that the US was in the "final stages" of negotiations with Iran. "We'll either have a deal or we're going to do some things that are a little bit nasty," he said. In response, the Guards said: "If the aggression against Iran is repeated, the promised regional war will this time spread far beyond the region."

26 ships cross Hormuz

The Guards also said Iran allowed 26 ships to transit Hormuz since Tuesday. "Over the past 24 hours, 26 vessels — including oil tankers, container ships and other commercial vessels — transited the Strait of Hormuz," said the Guards' navy in a post on X.

Expect Castro to end up in US prison: Attorney general

MIAMI/HAVANA, AFP: The United States expects former Cuban president Raul Castro to end up in prison, the country's top law enforcement official said, suggesting Washington could seize him if he does not surrender.

"We expect that he will show up here of his own will or by another way and go to prison," acting Attorney General Todd Blanche told a news conference in Miami.

The US indictment of Castro over the 1996 downing of two planes is a "political move with no legal basis", Cuban president Miguel Diaz-Canel said on Wednesday.

The charges aim to "add to the file they are fabricating to justify the folly of a military aggression against Cuba", he said in a post on X.

On February 24, 1996, Cuban jets shot down two small planes being flown by a group known as Brothers to the Rescue. All four men aboard were killed. Cuba said the planes were in its airspace, while the US said they were over international waters.

The US position was later backed by the International Civil Aviation Organization, which concluded the attack took place over international waters.

Ola Electric logs Rs 265 cr revenue from operations

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ola Electric on Wednesday reported consolidated revenue from operations of Rs 265 crore in Q4 FY26.

The company posted consolidated revenue from operations of Rs 2,253 crore for FY26, Ola Electric said in a statement.

Consolidated gross margin stood at 38.5% in Q4 FY26 and 30.6% for FY26, it added.

The electric two-wheeler maker said it delivered 20,256 units in Q4 FY26 and 173,794 units for FY26.

The auto business delivered Rs 213 crore CFO and Rs 173 crore FCF (free cash flow) in Q4 FY26.

MILESTONE: Revenue growth driven by automotive market demand

Bosch net profit marginally increases by 2.71% in Q4

BENGALURU, DHNS

Automotive technology and services supplier Bosch Limited on Wednesday reported a marginal 2.71% rise in consolidated net profit of Rs 568 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2026, as against Rs 553 crore reported in the corresponding quarter last year. Its revenue from operations went up 13.34% to Rs 5,566 crore, as against Rs 4,910 crore in the year ago quarter.

The growth in revenues was driven by higher demand in overall automotive market, including two-wheelers.

Profit before tax for the quarter stood at Rs 808 crore, which is 14.5% of the total revenue from operations, an increase of 3.8% over the same quarter of the previous year. The improvement is mainly on account of revenue growth and optimisation of expenses.

Overall product sales of the Mobility segment increased by 23.3%, compared to the same quarter of the previous year. The Power Solutions business grew by 27.4% mainly on account of robust growth in overall automotive market. The Two-wheeler business grew by 63.4%, owing to higher sales of exhaust gas sensors, following ramp-up for On-Board Diagnostics II (OBD-II) norms implementation from April 1, 2025.

The Beyond Mobility segment's product sales declined by 9.1% over the same quarter of the previous financial year, mainly due to the sale of "Video solutions, Access and Intrusions and Communication Systems" business in May 2025.

Total revenue from operations for 2025-26 stood at Rs 20,035 crore, an increase of 10.8% compared to the previous financial year. This growth was driven by an increase in overall production volumes in the automotive market.

Our new joint venture with Tata AutoComp, announced in the last quarter, positions us well to drive future growth in e-mobility, and keep pace with the industry's evolving demands.
GURUPRASAD MUDLAPUR, President of the Bosch Group in India, and MD, Bosch Limited

Profit After Tax for 2025-26 (including exceptional items) stood at Rs 2,770 crore, which is 13.8% of revenue from operations.

"FY25-26 has been a year of strong revenue growth driven by increased production volumes in the automotive segment, mainly passenger cars and tractors. This performance, achieved amidst ongoing supply-chain challenges testifies our operational agility," said Guruprasad Mudlapur, President of the Bosch Group in India, and Managing Director, Bosch Limited.

"Our new joint venture with Tata AutoComp, announced in the last quarter, positions us well to drive future growth in e-mobility, and keep pace with the industry's evolving demands," he added.

The Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of Rs 270 per share for the financial year 2025-26.

New JV company

The board also approved the joint venture agreement between the company and Wheels India Limited and Brakes India Private Limited collectively referred to as the "TSF Companies" for the formation of a joint venture company in India. The JV will develop and produce solutions for the commercial vehicle air system segment and any other product that the joint venture shall decide.

Bosch will hold 50% of paid-up share capital in the proposed JV company and the balance 50% paid-up share capital will be held jointly by Wheels India Limited and Brakes India Private Limited.

The company will furnish the requisite disclosures to the exchanges upon the incorporation of the JV company as required under Listing Regulations.

AxisCades to invest Rs 6k cr to set up integrated mfg hub

To create 20,000 direct and 54,000 indirect jobs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based aerospace and defence company AxisCades Aerospace Infrastructure Private Limited is set to invest Rs 6,000 crore in Karnataka, in three phases, to set up an integrated hub for manufacturing, testing, and maintenance in aerospace, defence, semiconductor, and AI innovation sectors.

M B Patil

According to Industries Minister MB Patil, the company's senior executives held a detailed discussion with the government on Wednesday and shared their plans. The company has sought 200 acres of land from the government near its existing facility at Devanahalli in Bengaluru.

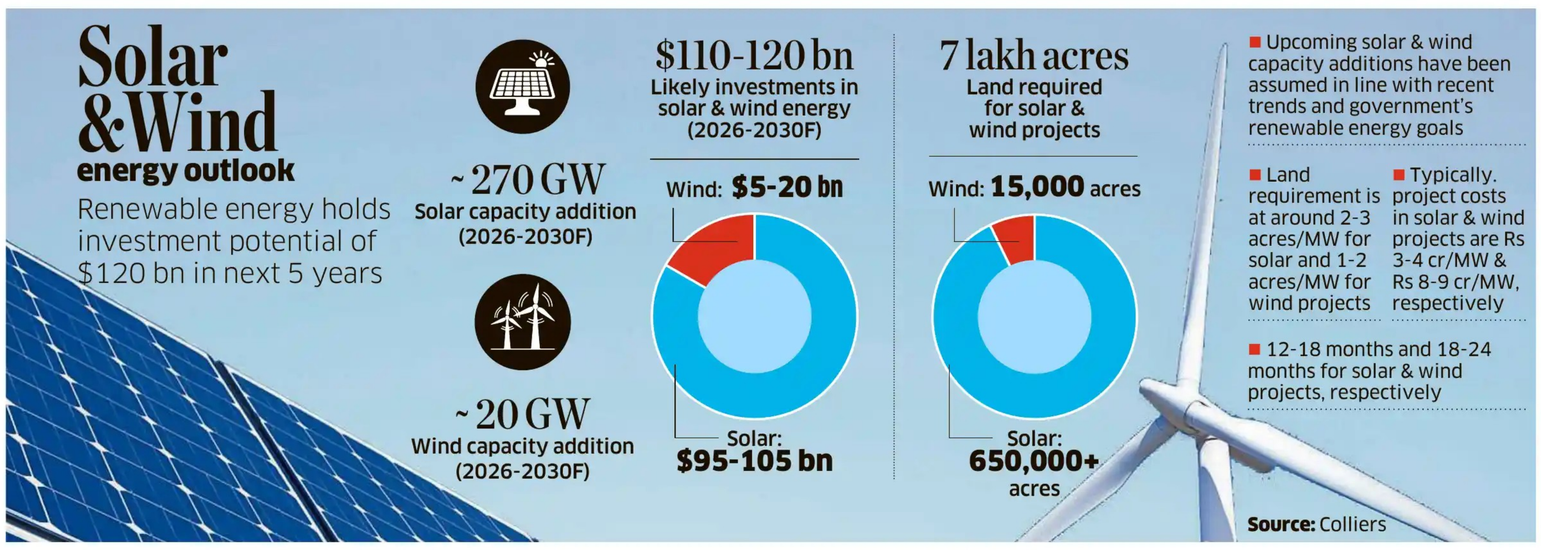
"The company also plans to set up a domestic R&D centre under global partnerships. The company will invest a total of Rs 6,000 crore in phases. The project is expected to generate 20,000 direct and 54,000 indirect jobs in the state. AxisCades also intends to develop aerospace and defence infrastructure, including missile sub systems, radar and sensor systems, and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities for fighter aircraft," Patil said.

In the first phase, the company will invest Rs 1,290 crore, followed by Rs 2,898 crore in the second phase, and Rs 1,512 crore in the third phase, he explained.

Runway plan

The company has also expressed its intention to build a 1.8-km-long runway. In response, the minister suggested that airports in Hassan, Vijayapura, and Shivamogga could also be considered if required.

However, company representatives stated that the proposed facility should preferably be located close to their existing Devanahalli unit. Subsequently, the minister directed officials to identify suitable land where runway construction would also be feasible.


Solar &Wind
energy outlook
Renewable energy holds investment potential of $120 bn in next 5 years
~ 270 GW
Solar capacity addition (2026-2030F)
~ 20 GW
Wind capacity addition (2026-2030F)
$110-120 bn
Likely investments in solar & wind energy (2026-2030F)
Wind: $5-20 bn
Solar: $95-105 bn
7 lakh acres
Land required for solar & wind projects
Wind: 15,000 acres
Solar: 650,000+ acres
Upcoming solar & wind capacity additions have been assumed in line with recent trends and government's renewable energy goals
Land requirement is at around 2-3 acres/MW for solar and 1-2 acres/MW for wind projects
Typically. project costs in solar & wind projects are Rs 3-4 cr/MW & Rs 8-9 cr/MW, respectively
12-18 months and 18-24 months for solar & wind projects, respectively
Source: Colliers

Renewables sector needs 7L acres to hit 2030 target

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The renewable energy sector (solar and wind) is expected to invest $110-120 billion in the next few years, as India moves towards achieving 500 GW of green energy production by 2030. Of this, an estimated 10-12% will be spent towards land acquisition. It also needs an estimated 7 lakh acres land to achieve the target, according to a report by Colliers.

As of March 2026, around 275 GW of capacity from renewable fuel sources has been installed in the country. In the Union Budget 2026-27, budgetary allocation to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been enhanced further by around 30% to around Rs 33,000 crore, indicating strong policy impetus towards the sector. With around 2,000 renewable power plants currently operational, further capacity addition must be fast-tracked to meet national climate goals.

According to a report by Colliers India, a real estate consultancy, India is set to comfortably achieve the 2030 target of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity. In fact, by 2030, solar projects alone could potentially have an installed capacity of 400-450 GW.

Upcoming renewable energy projects present multiple entry points for real estate and construction companies. Private sector participation can potentially increase significantly in land acquisition & aggregation, EPC services, O&M services etc. Interestingly, land aggregation and acquisition for renewable projects can gain significant traction in the next few years. Typically, for a renewable energy project (solar and wind) around 10-12% of the project cost is related to land and approvals.

"We foresee a requirement of around 7 lakh acres for upcoming solar and wind projects in India by 2030. This can resultantly lead to $10-15 billion of investments in land alone," says Badal Yagnik, CEO and MD of Colliers India.

Renewable energy OEMs registered around 6.1 million sq ft of Grade A industrial and warehousing space uptake across the top 8 cities during the 2021-2025 period. Importantly, their share in overall industrial and warehousing demand rose from 3% in 2021, to 8% in 2025. In the coming years, as renewable projects expand, the OEM segment is likely to account for a significant share in overall demand for industrial and warehousing spaces in India, the report added.

RBI announces $5 bn USD/INR swap auction on May 26

MUMBAI, PTI: The Reserve Bank of India will conduct a $5 billion USD-INR buy-and-sell swap auction next week to inject long-term liquidity in the banking system.

The auction, to be held on May 26, also comes at a time when the rupee has significantly depreciated against the American currency amid persisting global uncertainties.

"On a review of current and evolving liquidity conditions, it has been decided to conduct a USD/INR Buy/Sell swap auction of $5 billion for a tenor of three years," the central bank said.

The swap is in the nature of a simple buy/sell foreign exchange swap from the RBI side.

A bank will sell US dollars to the RBI and simultaneously agree to buy the same amount of US dollars at the end of the swap period, the central bank added.

It further said the market participants would be required to place their bids in terms of the premium that they are willing to pay to the apex bank for the tenor of the swap, expressed in paisa terms up to two decimal places.

The auction cut-off would be based on the premium. It would be a multiple price-based auction — successful bids will get accepted at their respective quoted premium.

Core infra sector growth rises to 1.7%

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India's core industrial output growth rose to 1.7% in April, from an upward revised 1.2% in the previous month, on the back of strong performance of infrastructure-related sectors like steel and cement, as per official data on Wednesday.

Cement production grew by 9.4% year-on-year. Steel production increased by 6.2%, while electricity output in April was 4.1% higher, compared to the same month last year.

However, other five sectors recorded contraction. Coal was the worst-affected, with 8.7% year-on-year contraction, while fertiliser output dipped by 8.6%. Output of crude oil in April was 3.9% lower, when compared with the same month last year. Natural gas output declined by 4.3%, while petroleum refineries witnessed output contraction of 0.5%, Commerce and Industry Ministry data showed.

For March, the ministry has revised upward the core industrial sector output growth to 1.2%. In the provisional figures released last month, it had reported a contraction of 0.4%.

This was largely due to upward revision in heavy weights like steel and electricity, and higher production in cement. Petroleum refinery products have the highest 28.04% weight in the Index of Eight Core Industries, electricity at 19.85% and steel at 17.92%.

The core sector, as measured by the Index of Eight Core Industries, accounts for 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

"The uptick in the growth in April 2026 relative to March 2026, was largely driven by electricity generation, and cement, as well as a narrower drag from fertilisers," said Rahul Agrawal, Senior Economist, ICRA.

He noted that contraction in five out of the eight core sectors indicate that economic activities in some sectors were impacted by the West Asia crisis.

"This is likely to reflect in tepid IIP growth in April 2026, for which data will be released on the much-awaited new base," he added.

Megha Arora, Director — Economics, India Ratings & Research, said positive growth in April was partly due to favourable base effect.

MANN+HUMMEL to invest over Rs 100 cr in India

BENGALURU, DHNS: German filtration technology company MANN+HUMMEL on Wednesday launched its new Global Technology and Innovation Centre in Tumakuru. It also announced plans to invest in a new facility in Pune. Together with centre in Karnataka, the combined investment across the initiatives is expected to exceed Rs 100 crore. Currently, MANN+HUMMEL employs around 1,250 across its India operations and plans to create an additional 300-400 jobs over the next 12 months.

The Tumakuru facility is designed to accelerate global product development and customer-centric innovation by integrating advanced research labs, testing infrastructure, digital engineering, and data analytics under one roof.

Southwest Airlines' facility in Hyd

HYDERABAD, DHNS: US-based carrier Southwest Airlines has launched its first India Global Innovation Centre in Hyderabad. Notably, the facility marks Southwest Airlines' first-ever Global Innovation Centre outside its home country. The Southwest Airlines Global Innovation Centre will serve as a strategic hub within the company's global network, supporting technology, engineering, and enterprise capabilities that enable secure, scalable, and future-ready aviation operations.

SWEET SPOT

Modi's 'Melody' diplomacy triggers jump in unrelated Parle stocks

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The caramel-and-chocolate candy 'Melody' manufactured by Mumbai-based FMCG giant Parle Products, found itself at the centre of a diplomatic exchange on Wednesday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a packet to his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni.

It was a light moment. A sweet gesture. However, within minutes of the video of the two leaders sharing the light moment over the gift "Melody", which is seen as a mashup of their surnames, "Meloni" and "Modi" went viral, stock markets reacted unexpectedly.

Shares of Parle Industries hit upper circuit climbing by 5%. It was a result of retail investors' frenzy. The stock, which had slumped by around 70% in the past one year, hit its upper circuit just because of a mistaken identity.

Parle Industries has no connection with the Melody candy. Its core business is infrastructure, real estate development, and paper-waste recycling.

The company behind Melody candy is named Parle Products Pvt Ltd. It is a privately-held FMCG company well-known for its products including Parle-G, Monaco, Hide & Seek, and Mango Bite.

Meanwhile, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal expressed hope that toffee diplomacy would be a boost to the domestic industry.

The minister informed that India's toffee exports grew from Rs 49.68 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 132 crore in 2025-26, registering a growth of 166%.

"India's TOFFEE TALE would surely be a melody to the ears! Exports have grown nearly 166% since 2013-14," Goyal said in a post on X.

Parle thanks PM after toffees become talking point during Meloni meet

MUMBAI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gesture of gifting Melody toffees to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni during their meeting in Rome not only created a buzz on social media, but it triggered an enthusiastic response from Mumbai-based Parle Products, the company behind the iconic confectionery brand.

Soon after visuals and photographs from the meeting went viral online, Parle Products took to X to thank Modi for showcasing the popular Indian candy on the global stage.

"Thank you Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for taking Parle Melody to the global stage. A proud moment for all of us at Parle Products to see an Indian favourite being shared across borders," the company said on its official handle @ParleFamily.

"Parle Melody brings to you an irresistible layer of caramel on the outside and a delightful chocolate filling inside," the company says on its website.

Social media users quickly coined the term "Melodi" — combining the surnames Modi and Meloni — after the exchange of the toffees, with memes and posts flooding various platforms. The phrase had earlier gained traction online in the context of the perceived camaraderie between the two leaders during international summits.

GREATER BENGALURU DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (GBDA)
B.M.R.D.A Office Building, No.1, Ali Askar Road, Bengaluru - 560052. Phone No: 080-22263479
No: GBDA/PMC-Tender/30/2026-27 Date: 19-05-2026

TENDR NOTIFICATION

"Regarding inviting tenders for submitting an Expression of Interest (EoI) to raise funds through Term Loans from various banks and other financial institutions for the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township Project of the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority." Ramanagara has been published in e-Procurement Portal of GOK. For details visit **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**" (Auction Notice No.GBDA/2026-27/SE0010).

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner (LA)
Greater Bengaluru Development Authority
Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/759/Adverto/2026-27

Office of the Medical Superintendent
K.C. General Hospital
Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560 003. Tel:080-23341771, Fax: 080-23567154 E-mail: kcghoffice@gmail.com
No.:DHFWS/2026-27/SE2243, DHFWS/2026-27/SE2242 DHFWS/2026-27/SE2244 Date:20.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal) (Two Cover System)

KC General Hospital, Malleswaram, Bangalore invites tenders through e-procurement portal from the reputed and registered Human Resource Agencies for providing the services of Group-D, Non-Clinical Staff & Security Guards on out source basis for the year 2026-27.
Intended bidders may download bid documents and apply through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Medical Suprerintendent
KC General Hospital, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/JA/748/2026-27

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Chief Information Officer, Information and Technology (IT), Annex-2 Building, 2nd Floor, Hudson Circle, Bengaluru - 560 002.
No: GBA/2026-27/SE0029 Date: 20-05-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy Chief Information Officer (IT). GBA, Bengaluru invites Request for Proposal, Call Centre for GBA eKhata including personnel for WhatsAapp chat platform services.

Calendar of Events: 1) Bid Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 20-05-2026 onwards. 2)** Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarification: **25-05-2026 upto 15.00 Hours. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting Date and Venue: **25-05-2026 at 16.00 Hours. In the Office of Deputy Commissioner-IT Annex-2 Building, 2nd Floor, GBA Head office, N R Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 4)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **09-06-2026 upto 17.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **10-06-2026 at 17.10 Hours. 6)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid of Technically Qualified Bidders: Immediately after Technical Evaluation is done & Proceedings thereof is uploaded on the KPPP Portal. **7)** EMD: **Rs.3.00 Lakhs** (Three Lakhs Only). Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Deputy Chief Information Officer - (IT),
Greater Bengaluru Authority

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka
4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928
Date: 19/05/2026

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites auction to nationalized Banks for Competitive rate of interest for placing surplus funds only in nationalized bank in FD Rs.112.00 Cr. More Details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Auction Notice No. RGUHSK/2026-27/AUCTION18

1	Auction document available for download	19-05-2026, 16:30 Hrs.
2	Last date to submit the query	30-05-2026, 13:00 Hrs.
3	Date and time to confirm participation of interest in Auction	01-06-2026, 13:30 Hrs.
4	Start date and time of Evaluation	03-06-2026, 11:30 Hrs.
5	Live bid	05.06.2026, 15.20 pm to 15.50 Hrs.

More details can be fetched from website
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Finance Officer

DIPR/CP/758/AKAR/2026-27

Participants catch fish during Kere Bete organised at Chittur Lake in Sorab taluk of Shivamogga district. DH PHOTOS/SHIVAMOGGA NAGARAJ

A festival of fishing

Venkatesh G H offers a firsthand account of Kere Bete, where fishing is as much about community as it is about the catch

It was 9 am and by the time we entered the government school grounds along the bund road leading to Chittur Lake in Sorab taluk of Shivamogga district, the village was abuzz with activity around the day's event.

The road to the lake was crowded with bikes, autorickshaws and people carrying fishing baskets, sieve nets and sacks. Bhaskar Gendla from Sorab hurried us along. "Come quickly. People are already getting ready to enter the lake," he said.

We had travelled from Shivamogga through Shiralakoppa and Udugani–Tadagani, the birthplace of Akkamahadevi, just to witness the event, and the enthusiasm at Chittur made the journey feel worthwhile.

The banks were packed with people preparing for Kere Bete, a traditional community fishing event held in some Malnad and semi-Malnad villages of the state during summers when the water-level is low and fish population is abundant. Traditionally, lakes were central to village life, serving as sources of water, livelihood and food. Over time, community fishing became part of rural culture itself.

"From a distance, Kere Bete may look like a battle. But it is not an attack, it is a group competition," said folklore researcher Mohan Chandragutti.

At Chittur, some stood in shorts while others wore folded *dhotis*. Some had wet nets slung across their shoulders, while others sat on the muddy ground preparing themselves before entering the water. But every eye was fixed on the lake.

Ice cream sellers and sugarcane juice vendors moved through the crowd, while a vehicle belonging to the organisers was making announcements over a crackling loudspeaker. "No quarrels will be entertained. No one can enter the lake without permission from the village committee. Sticks and knives are prohibited. A registration fee of Rs 600 is compulsory."

Near the bund stood a police reserve vehicle, its presence a reminder that the gathering of thousands required careful monitoring.

At the edge of the lake stood T P Ashok from Karekoppa, holding a sieve net. "Kere Bete is being held in this lake after 15 to 16 years. Fishing here is a festival for fisherfolk," he said.

He explained how larger fish remain in deeper sections of the lake. "The sieve net cannot reach very deep. Smaller fish get caught near the surface. Bigger fish rise only after getting exhausted. That's when they are trapped."

Kere Bete participants walk towards the venue.

For Nagaraj from Kuppugadde, Kere Bete is a passion of sorts. "Whether we catch fish or not, we have to come for the *bete*," he says.

But not everyone there had come to fish. Rathnakar from Chittur stood watching from the bund. "We don't eat fish, but we have come to watch our village festival," he said.

"There are no prizes here. But photos of those who catch the most fish circulate on social media. At the next *bete*, people recognise them instantly. That itself is the reward," he said.

As the morning advanced, participants prepared in different ways. Some tightened the knots of their nets, others rubbed mud onto their feet for grip. A few tied towels around their heads while scanning the lake's depth.

Then, for a brief moment, the crowd fell silent before roar broke out.

"*Hoiii*...!"

The 'battle' begins

Thousands rushed into the lake at once, turning the calm water muddy within minutes. The scene resembled a battle.

Fish hiding in deeper sections darted towards the banks as people surged forward. Smaller fish floated close to the edges where children caught them with bare hands and stuffed them into bags. Women gathered fish in the folds of their sarees.

At one point, a large fish leapt out of the water. A man trying to grab it lost his grip and the fish landed in someone else's hands. "*Ayyo*, bad luck!" people nearby remarked.

Soon, successful catches began emerging from the water. Sudeep from Sagar taluk walked out carrying more than 10 kg of *roni* fish. People surrounded him, recording videos and taking photos.

Manikantha carried a *huligende* fish on his shoulder. Participants from Thyagarthi returned with sacks filled with *jabbu*, *kuchchalu* and *murugodu* fish. Shivamurthy had caught a large catla fish. "There are five people at home. This is enough," he said, adding that the entire village would feast on fish curry, fry, *chutney*, *gojju*, *kebabs*, for an entire week.

Near the bund stood Revannappa, head of the Kere Bete organising team. "This is the second-largest lake in Sorab taluk, spread across 102 acres," he said.

The lake is connected to the Kumudvathi stream. Whenever the Kumudvathi overflows, fish enter this lake. Every year, fishing rights were auctioned for normal fishing. But this year, villagers insisted on a Kere Bete. According to the organisers, 2,300 participants from Sirsi, Siddapur, Hosanagar, Ripponpet, Hangal, Ranebennur, Shivamogga and other places registered for the event, generating Rs 13.80 lakh.

Selfie with the catch

By afternoon, the lake had turned brown with churned mud. Some participants posed for selfies with their catch. Others filmed reels for social media. Those carrying large fish walked away proudly while those who caught nothing returned quietly. Slowly, the crowds began to disperse. Wet footprints, torn nets and muddy water remained after the frenzy faded.

While the lake fell silent, the echo of that collective "*Hoiii*..." still seemed to hang in the air.

(Translated from Kannada by Divyashri Mudakavi)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Neglected produce to refreshing beverage

Farmers and enthusiasts in coastal Karnataka are experimenting with cashew apples, turning them into juice and other value-added products, writes Harsha

In coastal Karnataka, Shyam Bhat, a retired All India Radio programme executive, often serves guests a refreshing drink on hot afternoons. What surprises many is that the sweet, aromatic juice they enjoy is made from cashew apple, typically discarded after cashew nut extraction.

Shyam and his wife, Jayalakshmi, began experimenting with cashew apple (*Anacardium occidentale*) juice earlier this year after consulting experts at the ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur and senior farm journalist Shree Padre, who suggested ideas on value-addition and juice making. They saw potential in making use of a resource that would otherwise go to waste on their farm.

"We produced 50 litres of cashew apple juice from nearly 100 trees in our very first attempt, without adding water, sugar or artificial essence," Shyam says, adding that the juice got exhausted in no time, but the demand kept pouring in.

In cashew, the kidney-shaped shell containing the nut is the fruit, while the fleshy cashew apple is a swollen stalk or pseudo-fruit. The apple ranges in colour from yellow to deep red and grows to about 3-4 inches long.

One of the key challenges in processing cashew apples is removing tannins, which leave an itchy, astringent sensation on the tongue. To overcome this, the couple added five grams of cooked *sabudana* (sago) paste to the juice. "After a few hours, the tannins coagulate and settle at the bottom," Shyam explains. The clear juice is then decanted for consumption.

Following their successful experiments, the couple uploaded videos on YouTube demonstrating the preparation process.

Some households use rice water instead of sago paste. Farmer couple Ganapathy and Malathi Bhat from Yethadka in Kerala's Kasaragod follow a slightly different method, washing chopped cashew apples in salt water and then in clean water. In their process, the tannins settle at the bottom within six to seven hours.

Gaining attention

According to Shree Padre, over 30 families across Karnataka, inspired by social media posts, have begun making cashew apple juice and sharing it with neighbours and relatives. Four homestays in Uttara Kannada are preparing to introduce it as a welcome drink for guests.

Rich in vitamin C, antioxidants and dietary fibre, cashew apple has also drawn the attention of research institutions. "The Cashew Research Station at Kerala Agricultural University in Madakkathara, Thrissur, has developed around 30 value-added products, while the Directorate of Cashew Research in Puttur has developed around 17. However, many of these products have yet to reach the wider market," Shree Padre says.

Experts from the Directorate of Cashew Research note that nearly 60 lakh tonnes of cashew apple in India, including around 4.5 lakh tonnes in Karnataka, is discarded as waste every year, despite being valued at nearly Rs 6,000 crore. Even partial utilisation of this could generate substantial additional income for growers.

According to Subhas Rai Kadamajalu, vice-president of the All India Cashew Growers Association, cashew apples fetch around Rs 5 per kg in the market. Now, more entrepreneurs are coming forward to buy them.

Good response

The growing enthusiasm for cashew apples was evident at a recent mela organised by Raitha Kudla Prathisthana in Mangaluru. "Around 3,000 people enjoyed 300 litres of cashew apple juice in just three days," says Bharathraj Sorake of the Prathisthana. First-time tasters like Vaishnavi Naik are already enthusiastic about preparing the juice at home during the next season.

Buoyed by the response for the juice, Lata Ajadka, a former gram panchayat member, has begun selling it to customers at her fancy shop in Guthigar near Sullia. She now plans to scale her new venture by procuring a deep freezer.

Some enthusiasts, like Shyam Bhat, are also experimenting by turning cashew apples into pulp for off-season use. Others, like Deepak Kamat from Belman, are innovating by blending cashew apple juice with sugarcane juice.

At the National Cashew Mela organised in Mangaluru recently, visitors were offered free samples of the juice. Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Chairperson Mamata D S Gatti says the initiative was aimed at familiarising people with the drink, and it received an encouraging response.

Apart from the juice, entrepreneurs and enthusiasts are experimenting with other value-added products such as *halwa*, cashew soda, *chutney*, syrup, jaggery, ice cream, pickle, toffees, jam and energy bars among others.

Visitors taste cashew apple juice at an exhibition in Mangaluru.
DH PHOTOS/FAKRUDDIN H

Book clubs define Mysuru's reading landscape

From a small women's reading circle to a network of English and Kannada clubs, the Mysuru Book Clubs Charitable Trust has expanded reading across age groups and communities, writes Lakshmi Palecanda

Often described as the cultural capital of Karnataka, Mysuru has long nurtured literature and the arts. Over the past 15 years, the city has also become known for its thriving reading culture through book clubs.

In 2009, entrepreneur, philanthropist and bibliophile Shubha Sanjay Urs, a native of Mysuru, floated the idea of an English book club for women and quickly found around 20 like-minded members. The first book they discussed was *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

That informal gathering marked the beginning of what later became the Mysuru Book Clubs Charitable Trust, officially registered in 2010. As the English clubs grew in number, Kannada literature groups were also launched. Today, the Trust runs 12 English and three Kannada book clubs.

The clubs introduce members to new perspectives, encouraging them to read beyond their comfort zones, engage with different interpretations, and explore diverse genres. This diversity is reflected in its last year's reads that included the *Idris: Keeper of the Light* by Anita Nair, *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, *Dust Child* by Nguy n Phan Qu Mai and *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Gutterson.

Over time, discussions extended beyond books, with members sharing how reading influenced or changed their lives. For instance, while discussing the book

Members of Mysuru Book Clubs Charitable Trust engage in an interactive session.

Primal Woman by Sunil Gangopadhyay, a member said she had never encountered Bengali society of the past outside the writings of Rabindranath Tagore. "Gangopadhyay's raw imagery was a revelation. It helped me realise the co-existence of two sides of society," she said.

The clubs function by invitation. Members include emerging and established writers coming from varied backgrounds, including teachers, professors, entrepreneurs, homemakers and retirees.

"I was always a voracious reader but never considered writing seriously until I joined the club. Sharing my thoughts with others helped me explore different genres with an open mind. They encouraged me to put my experiences on paper, which eventually led me to write my first story," says member Meena Joshi, a contributor to *Travel Tales*, an anthology.

Another member, Nishitha Krishnaswamy, says that seeing book club members publish their own books has made her realise how reading and writing can help individuals grow and transform in unique ways.

Initially, books were selected by Shubha, ensuring variety across genres, regions, and writers of different genders. Over time, members began suggesting and voting on titles to finalise a year-long reading list. The member who recommended the book led the discussion. Now, each club meets once a month to discuss the selected title, hosted either in members' homes or at cafes and restaurants.

Nurturing young minds

Recognising that reading habits are best nurtured early, the Trust launched book clubs for children. There are currently three such clubs, where children are encouraged to read books, analyse them and write their own stories. The initiative has already nurtured young writers, with 11 members having written and published their own books.

Aakruthi Sharath, a Class 4 student, says joining the club shaped her interest in writing. "The club helped me become a story creator. My book is a collection of reflections and imaginative letters that explore the emotional world of a student," she says.

Nine-year-old Aditi Aditya who has authored a storybook, says she always dreamt of writing a book and that became a reality after joining the book club.

The Trust now runs book clubs in government schools. There are also two reading clubs in children's homes, three for differently-abled people, one for young adults and two for senior citizens.

In 2010–11, the Mysuru Book Club Charitable Trust expanded its activities to include author interactions, talks and book releases. Since then, it has hosted the release of over 100 books. Club members have interacted with author and philanthropist Yasmeen Premji, novelist Mahesh Rao, Nobel laureate Dr Venkataraman Ramakrishnan, Booker Prize winner Shehan Karunatilaka and International Booker Prize winners Geetanjali Shree and Banu Mushtaq.

Mysuru literature fest

Among the Trust's most prominent initiatives is the Mysuru Literature Festival. Launched in 2017, it has become one of Mysuru's major events.

The Trust also organises annual quiz competitions for students. In partnership with Vani Vilas Ladies Club, headed by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, it conducts a Kannada quiz competition for women.

For member Prithvi Sudindar, the festival has been a learning experience. "Watching Shubha curate the festival taught me the importance of planning, precision and time management — lessons I now apply while organising events at a school for children with intellectual disabilities."

For Shubha, the journey has been deeply rewarding. She recalls a member saying, "We women are like endless books kept in the shadows. By reading the stories of others, we have found the courage to share our own stories — both orally and in writing."

That memory, she says, remains one she treasures the most.

On behalf of everyone at Manchester City, we congratulate Mikel and all the staff, players and fans on winning the Premier League.

PEP GUARDIOLA
Manchester City coach

Let me tell you something. Twenty-two years, 22 years. There was laughing, there was joking, they're not laughing anymore.

BUKAYO SAKA
Arsenal player

They called us bottlers. And now we're holding the bottle.

MYLES LEWIS-SKELLY
Arsenal defender

You did it! Champions go on when others stop. This is your time. Now, go on and enjoy every moment.

ARSENE WENGER
Former Arsenal coach

22 long years for the Arsenal. But finally, we're back where we belong. Champions!

KEIR STARMER
British Prime Minister

Arsenal's 22-year wait ends

Gunners crowned Premier League champions after Bournemouth hold 2nd-placed Manchester City

LONDON, AFP

Arsenal celebrated their first Premier League title for 22 years on Tuesday after Manchester City were held to a 1-1 draw by Bournemouth, sparking wild scenes of joy around the Emirates Stadium.

City had to win to take the fight to the final day but fell short and can no longer catch their rivals, who have ended a six-year trophy drought.

After finishing second for the past three seasons, Mikel Arteta's side have finally made it over the line to win the London club's first English title since Arsene Wenger's "Invincibles" in 2004.

Arsenal edged to the brink of a 14th English top-flight title with an unconvincing 1-0 win over already relegated Burnley on Monday, which took them five points clear of City.

The Gunners, who have set the pace for most of the season, have bounced back impressively since losing to City last month, winning four straight league matches without conceding a goal.

"Congratulations to Arsenal, Mikel, the staff, all the players, fans for this Premier League," said City boss Pep Guardiola. "You deserve it!"

On Monday, just 48 hours after completing a domestic cup double with victory over Chelsea in the FA Cup final, City were rocked by widespread reports that Guardiola will depart after a decade in charge at the end of the season.

Victory at Wembley on Saturday secured a 20th trophy of Guardiola's glorious reign.

But he cannot add to his six Premier League titles when Aston Villa visit the Etihad on Sunday for what is expected to be his final match in charge.

"The first person I have to talk to is my chairman," said Guardiola, referring to his future. "We decide when we finish the season, we'll sit down and we'll talk. It's as simple as that and after we'll take the decision."

Red smoke from flares billowed around the Emirates in north London as fans sang "Campeones" and chanted Arteta's name.

"22 long years for the Arsenal," British Prime Minister and Arsenal fan Keir Starmer posted on X. "But finally, we're back where we belong. Champions!"

City fizzle out

At the club's training ground, there were scenes of celebration from the Arsenal players who had gathered to watch the action at the Vitality Stadium.

"You did it! Champions go on when others stop. This is your time. Now, go on and enjoy every moment," Wenger said in a video posted on the club's social media channels.

Guardiola had warned that fatigue could cost City against a highly motivated Bournemouth, who still have Champions League qualification in their sights for next season.

Chelsea beat Spurs

Chelsea beat Tottenham 2-1 on Tuesday to leave Roberto De Zerbi's men in danger of relegation from the Premier League with one game left of the season.

Enzo Fernandez opened the scoring in the 18th minute, curling home from outside the box, and Andrey Santos doubled the home side's league midway through the second half.

Tottenham gave themselves hope in the 74th minute when Richarlison converted from close range after Pape Matar Sarr's backheel.

Spurs poured forward in search of an equaliser but could not find another goal.

The result gives renewed hope to West Ham, who are 18th in the table, two points behind Tottenham.

Results: Bournemouth: 1 (Kroupi 39th) drew with Manchester City: 1 (Haaland 90th+5); Chelsea: 2 (Fernandez 18th, Santos 67th) bt Tottenham: 1 (Richarlison 74th).

Thousands of Arsenal supporters gathered to celebrate the Gunners winning the English Premier League at the Emirates Stadium in London on Tuesday. AP/PTI

Key factors behind Arsenal's triumph

Set-piece masters

More than 40% of the Gunners' 69 Premier League goals this season have come from dead balls. Of their 28 goals from set pieces, 18 have come from corners to set a new single-season Premier League record. Their excellence from dead balls has often had opposition defenders bemused.

Red-hot Rice

At the heart of every football team is the midfield, and Declan Rice has been the engine of the Gunners. The 27-year-old Englishman amassed more than 4,000 minutes in all competitions in a tireless effort to deliver the title Arsenal envisioned. Rice has chipped in with four league goals and five assists but his work rate off the ball has been a key factor for Arsenal.

Strength in depth

Injuries played a ruinous role in Arsenal's failed pursuit of Liverpool last season. They invested heavily in bulking out the squad, signing Eberechi Eze, Martin Zubimendi, Viktor Gyokeres, Noni Madueke, Piero Hincapie and Cristhian Mosquera. All of them stood up when Arsenal missed Bukayo Saka, Gabriel, Martin Odegaard, Kai Havertz and Jurrien Timber due to injuries at various stages.

Rock-solid defence

Many modern-day fans connect Arsenal to free-flowing football but the stand-out factor in the Gunners' triumph has been their water-tight defence. Regulars Gabriel Magalhaes, William Saliba (**in pic**), Ben White and Riccardo Calafiori have rarely let anything past them. They posted eight 1-0 wins this season and conceded just 26 goals overall.

Reliable Raya

For the third consecutive year, David Raya won the Golden Glove for most clean sheets in the Premier League and the Spaniard's brilliance between the posts has been an integral factor in Arsenal's triumph.

Gunners reign

- Arsenal finally ended their 22-year-long wait for the Premier League title following three successive runner-up finishes.
- It was Gunners' 14th English title, behind only Manchester United and Liverpool who share the record with 20 each.
- It is Arsenal's first title since 2003-04 when Arsene Wenger's side went through the season unbeaten and their first major trophy since the 2020 FA Cup in coach Mikel Arteta's first season after taking over from Unai Emery.
- Arteta, at 44, became the youngest Arsenal manager to win the English top-flight title.
- Arteta is also the second-youngest coach after Jose Mourinho to win the Premier League.
- Arteta and Co take on PSG in the Champions League final on May 30 when a win would land them a historic maiden double for the club.

"As a player and as a coach, he's (Guardiola) been an inspiration for me, and he's the person who decided to bet on me.

MIKEL ARTETA
Arsenal manager

Arteta: Pep protege to EPL winner

LONDON, AFP: Mikel Arteta has silenced his doubters by awakening sleeping giant Arsenal, restoring the Gunners to the top of English football.

Twenty-two years on from Arsene Wenger's "Invincibles", Arsenal have finally got over the line to vindicate the Arteta project that began with his appointment back in 2019.

Arsenal gambled on their former club captain six-and-a-half years ago even though he had no managerial experience.

But Arteta was blessed with arguably the best apprenticeship, working alongside his long-time mentor turned title rival Pep Guardiola.

When Guardiola arrived at Manchester City a decade ago, he sought out Arteta's experience of the English game and someone he knew from their playing days together at Barca.

"As a player and as a coach, he's been an inspiration for me, and he's the person who decided to bet on me, to include me as a second coach," Arteta said of Guardiola last year.

Yet in stark contrast to many other modern coaches, Arteta has not followed the Guardiola approach in building a side that has pipped his former boss to the title.

Arteta never quite made the grade at Barcelona but the influences on his playing career have moulded his outlook as a manager. He also credits David Moyes for further growth during his time at Everton as assistant manager.

"I learned from him on the field and off the field about building a team and getting the right characters in the team to build what you want," Arteta said of Moyes.

We have our game plan ready for Australia: Salima

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Salima Tete

A little over five months after Sjoerd Marijne took charge as the head coach of the Indian women's hockey team, the national squad (ranked ninth in the world) has booked its World Cup berth by finishing runners-up in the qualifiers in March this year in Hyderabad before touring Argentina in April for a four-match series which ended in a 2-2 draw against the world No. 2 side.

One of the key reasons for these early encouraging results is the positive mindset during play and practice instilled by the Dutchman, says captain Salima Tete. Working on the takeaways over the last few months, the team is now entering a gruelling second half of the year beginning with a tour of Australia from May 26.

"To draw the series against Argentina shows that we have improved," Tete told *DH*. "We have combined well as a squad with a good mix of juniors and seniors supported by the coach and his team. Sjoerd sir is open to our feedback and his focus is always on us constantly improving."

All the work put in the month-long camp will be on display during their matches against the world No. 8 Australia scheduled on May 26, 27, 29 and 30 before the Nations Cup begins in New Zealand from June 15 to 21.

"To become a strong pressing team and solid in the centre are departments we have extensively worked on. Australia is a very good team and we have our game plan ready."

For Marijne, making the girls physically fitter has been one of the top priorities. To meet the demands of what awaits, Tete said the girls dedicated time to address the chinks in the armour.

"Sometimes, our footwork is not so good. While strength, endurance and speed were equally taken care of, we did a lot of agility drills. I can tell you the footwork has now improved," offered the 24-year-old.

Speaking about improvement, the once shy and reserved Tete now comes across as a confident and talkative individual. Has the self-assurance spilt over in captaincy too?

"Definitely. I used to think that I had to focus more on myself, but now I have the responsibility of carrying the team along with me. Being aggressive doesn't mean shouting at someone. Mistakes will happen. I understand all this much better now and try to talk it out and motivate the juniors while also learning from them."

Tete and her girls will stay back in Australia before flying to the Nations Cup where the winner earns a spot at the 2026-2027 Pro League. This is followed by World Cup and Asian Games in August and September respectively.

"Yes, we are an excited bunch. Lots of matches lined-up and we are eager to do well," she signed off.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.
Ph : 08282-271063 Fax : 08282-271063
E-mail : eeknnlbdvt@yahoo.co.in
No.EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/Tender Notification No: 03/2026-27 Dated : 15.05.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the **Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is varies from Rs.304.70 Lakhs.- The amount of EMD is varies from Rs.4.58/- lakhs (Rs.1.00 lakhs through e-cash and balance amt., of Rs. 3.58 lakhs through e-BG) (by kpp portal)** contactors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents **from 20.05.2026 to 02.06.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. **Technical Bid will be opened on 03.06.2026 at 17.30 hours Financial bid will be openend on** after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd: 25.05.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs at O/o Executive Engineer, No. 4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 08 Months (Including Monsoon).
For more conditions and details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

DIPR/SMG/No.79-05 zenkar/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL,No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against Bid Enquiry No's from the eligible bidders for the following works

No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2026-27/2072&2087 Date: 16.05.2026

(1) KPTCL/2026-27/SS/Konkal/Call-2 Date: 19.05.2026 for Replacement of 2X10MVA, 110/11kV transformers by 2X20MVA, 110/11kV transformers at 110kV Konkal sub-station in Yadagiri Taluk & District (Excluding supply 20MVA power transformers and 11kV Switchgear) **On Partial Turnkey Basis.**
(2) KPTCL/2026-27/TL/MukundaLILO/Call-2 Date: 19.05.2026 for Construction of 110kV LILO line to 110kV Mukunda sub-station by utilizing 110kV DC towers from the tapping point of existing 110kV Munirabad-2 line for a distance of 12.62 kms along with construction of terminal bay at 110/11kV Mukunda sub-station in Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur District.

No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2026-27/2523 Date: 19.05.2026

3) KPTCL/2026-27/TL/DeodurgaLILO/Call-2 Date: 22.05.2026 for Conversion of SC line on SC towers to DC line on DC towers LILO from tap point of existing 110kV Raichur-Shahpur line-I to 110/33/11kV Deodurga sub-station in Deodurga Taluk, Raichur Dist for a distance of 05 Kms along with construction Terminal Bay. All above works including Supply of all Materials/Equipments and Erection (includingdismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.
The detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on or after **22.05.2026** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.

NATIONAL SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : Bangalore - 24. (CIN No.: U 74899 DL 1963 GOI 003913)
Phone : 080-2341 5816. E-mail : rm.bangalore@indiaseeds.com, nscbangalore.mktg@gmail.com Website : www.indiaseeds.com

No. : 7(4)/Tender/Mktg/NSC-BNG/2026-27 Date : 20-05-2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

National Seeds Corporation Limited, Regional Office, Bangalore invites NIT through Online for Purchase of Certified **Seeds of Soyabean** from reputed Seed Producers. For further details visit our **Website : www.indiaseeds.com.** NIT Document can be Downloaded from **Website : https://indiaseeds.enivida.com** from **21-05-2026, 13.00 hrs. Last Date for Submission of Online Tender is 29-05-2026 till 10.00 hrs.**

Sd/- Regional Manager, National Seeds Corporation, Bangalore.

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYAT
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Buidling S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bangalore-560070.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/11/2026-27/ Dated: 19.05.2026

KPPP Tender Notice Goods Tender Notification
Two Cover System

Tenders are invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For **MP Grants.** The Goods details can obtained from the kppp Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated: 04.06.2026 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayatha Raj Engineering Division, Bengaluru Urban Dist, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/754/2026-27

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SEDAM
Near State Bank of India, Sedam-585222, Dist : Kalaburagi, State : Karnataka
WebSite: www.sedamtown.mrc.gov.in Phone: 08441-277912-276932

NO:TMC-SEDAM/AMRUT2.0/2025-26 Date: 20.05.2026

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

The Chief Officer TMC Sedam, Dist-Kalaburagi, Karnataka Invites Tenders Under AMRUT-2.O (Rejuvanation of water body) Through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** KPP Portal as per the KTPP Act 2000 from Eligible Registered contractors
1) Works/Goods/Service Details: **1. DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58402- Others,** 2) **DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58403- Others,** 2) Head of Account: AMRUT-2.O (Rejuvanation of Water Body), 3) Works/Goods/Service Estimated Cost: **Rs. 92.82 to 93.06 Lakhs,** 4) Contractors/Agency/Suppliers Edibility : Eligible Registered contractors, 5) Works/Goods/Service Tender Cost: **Rs. 92.82 to 93.06 Lakhs**, 6) Last date for applying the tender: **06.06.2026 Evening 17.00 Hours**, 7) Tenders Opening Date: **08.06.2026 Morning 11.00 Hours,** (Financial Bid Opening As per kpp portal), 8) Office Address and Contact Details: City Municipal Council Sedam- 7892152625

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner TMC Sedam

DIPR/Kalaburagi/146/KSMC&A/2026-27

ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION RAICHUR

No:ACF/SFDR/KPPP.Proc.Tender/CR- /2026-27 Date: 20-05-2026

e-Tender Notification

(ಮೊದಲನೇಯ ಬಾರಿಗೆ)

This is to inform to the the public that, for the Financial Year 2026-27. Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur has invited Tender for Forest Works through e-Procurement (Website Link http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) two cover system under KFDF Flixi Fund-132, Schemes. During 2026-27 Registered Forest Contractors are eligible for Tender Works. Tender From 20-05-2026 to 30-05-2026 & 01-06-2026 Technical Bids and 02-06-2026 Financial Bid Opening.

For More Details available on the notice board. O/o Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur

DIP/RCR/74/KSMC&A/76/2026-27

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"We are not in a position to think about winning by a very big margin or getting a very big win. It is about again doing the right things.

SAI SUDHARSAN
GUJARAT TITANS BATTER

Knights keep playoffs hopes alive

Kolkata live to fight another day with 4-wicket win over MI

Kolkata Knight Riders' Manish Pandey bagged Player of the Match award for his 33-ball 45 during the tricky chase against Mumbai Indians at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday. PTI

KOLKATA, PTI

Kolkata Knight Riders lived to fight another day with a crucial four-wicket win over Mumbai Indians after Sunil Narine-led bowlers once again delivered on a testing Eden Gardens surface to keep their IPL playoff hopes alive here on Wednesday.

Needing nothing less than a win to remain in contention, KKR rode on a clinical bowling effort to restrict the already eliminated five-time champions to a modest 147/8 after Ajinkya Rahane won a good toss.

In reply, veteran Manish Pandey (45 off 33 balls; 6x4) finally got an opportunity to bat at No. 3 with talented keeper-batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi injured and anchored a tense chase in a 33-ball 45.

He along with Rovman Powell (40; 30b, 4x4, 2x6) shared a crucial 64-run partnership to set it up as the hosts overhauled the 148-run target in 18.5 overs.

The victory lifted KKR from eighth to sixth in the standings with 13 points and kept their slim playoff hopes alive with six wins from 13 matches.

However, their fate is no longer in their own hands as KKR will now closely follow Rajasthan Royals' clash against Mumbai Indians on Sunday afternoon before they face Delhi Capitals in the evening clash.

A Royals win would seal their qualification and eliminate KKR, rendering Kolkata's final league game against DC inconsequential.

For MI, it was their ninth defeat in 13 matches as the five-time champions remained second from bottom with one game left.

On a surface where stroke-play remained difficult, KKR began shakily and lost both openers inside the powerplay.

Finn Allen, coming off a blistering 35-ball 93 in the previous match against Gujarat Titans, started aggressively with two boundaries before Deepak Chahar cleaned him up for 8.

Ajinkya Rahane survived an lbw review via umpire's call but never looked comfortable during his 17-ball 21 before edging Corbin Bosch in the final over of the powerplay.

Bosch struck again in the eighth over when Cameron Green (4) miscued a poor delivery down the leg side straight to fine leg as KKR slipped to 54/3.

Mumbai sensed an opening but let the game drift through sloppy fielding.

Jasprit Bumrah, enduring another forgettable outing, leaked 14 runs in his second over as KKR steadily rebuilt through Pandey and Powell.

There was further frustration for MI in the 10th over when Powell top-edged a pull off Hardik Pandya.

Deepak Chahar at fine leg appeared set for the catch but left it for Robin Minz running across from deep square leg, only for the ball to land safely between them.

Pandey however could not complete the chase and was cleaned up by Bumrah, while in the next over Powell fell to AM Ghazanfar.

But with hardly any scoreboard pressure -- KKR needed 19 from last four overs -- Rinku Singh (9 n.o.) and Anukul Roy (4 n.o.) sealed their seventh win in last eight matches.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS: Ryan Rickelton c Pandey b Green 6, Rohit Sharma c Green b Dubey 15, Naman Dhir c Raghuvanshi b Green 0, Suryakumar Yadav b Dubey 15, Tilak Varma c Roy b Tyagi 20, Hardik Pandya b Narine 26, Will Jacks (run out) 14, Corbin Bosch (not out) 32, Deepak Chahar c Roy b Tyagi 10. Extras (B-4 LB-2 W-3) 9. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 147.**

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-17, 3-23, 4-41, 5-84, 6-95, 7-105, 8-147.

Bowling: Anukul Roy 1-0-6-0, Saurabh Dubey 4-0-34-2, Cameron Green 3-0-23-2, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-37-2, Sunil Narine 4-0-13-1, Varun Chakaravarthy 4-0-28-0.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: Ajinkya Rahane c Rickelton b Bosch 21, Finn Allen b Chahar 8, Manish Pandey b Bumrah 45, Cameron Green c Ghazanfar b Bosch 4, Rovman Powell c Bosch b Ghazanfar 40, Rinku Singh (not out) 9, Tejasvi Dahiya c Rickelton b Bosch 11, Anukul Roy (not out) 4. Extras (LB-1 W-4 NB-1) 6. **TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 18.5 overs) 148.**

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-48, 3-54, 4-118, 5-124, 6-140.

Bowling: Deepak Chahar 3-0-23-1, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-26-1, Corbin Bosch 3-0-30-3, AM Ghazanfar 4-0-25-1, Hardik Pandya 2-0-13-0, Raghu Sharma 2-0-23-0, Will Jacks 0.5-0-7-0.

Result: KKR won by four wickets

PoM: Manish Pandey

daCunha/AB/1102

GT eye Qualifier 1 spot as they face smarting Chennai

Five-time champs need a win to stay alive in playoffs race

Skipper Shubman Gill is among inform GT batters with two big fifties in his last three outings. PTI FILE PHOTO

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Eyeing a top-two finish to ensure a shot at Qualifier 1, Gujarat Titans will have their tails up when they face a flagging Chennai Super Kings side seeking to regain lost ground after a rather disappointing campaign, in their IPL match here on Thursday.

A top-two placement at the end of the league stage grants the teams two opportunities to reach the final.

Currently placed second with 16 points, the Titans are in a three-way battle alongside table-toppers Royal Challengers Bengaluru (18 points) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (16 points), and victory against CSK will vastly improve their chances of a top-two finish in the group phase.

A victory over CSK by a heavy margin could even push GT past RCB's (+1.065) net run rate, depending on other fixtures. And if SRH too win their final league stage game against RCB, the battle for the second spot will come down to net run rate.

In this scenario, GT hold slight edge with their NNR (+0.400) being better than Sunrisers' +0.350.

On the other hand, with their playoff hopes inching closer to getting extinguished after a narrow loss to SRH, the five-time former champions Chennai Super Kings will seek to salvage pride in what could be their final outing in this edition.

Ruturaj Gaikwad's men have been pushed to the brink of elimination and require a victory along with other results to go their way to stay in contention for the last playoffs berth.

Going into the contest on the traditionally batting-friendly strip at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Titans' captain Shubman Gill is in excellent form, and so is his opening partner Sai Sudharsan.

LIVE 7:30 PM

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers (Q)	13	9	4	0	18	1.065
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	8	5	0	16	0.400
Sunrisers(Q)	13	8	5	0	16	0.350
Rajasthan Royals	13	7	6	0	14	0.083
Punjab Kings	13	6	6	1	13	0.227
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	1	13	0.011
Chennai Super Kings	13	6	7	0	12	-0.016
Delhi Capitals	13	6	7	0	12	-0.871
Mumbai Indians	13	4	9	0	8	-0.510
Lucknow Super Giants	13	4	9	0	8	-0.702

RCB's 'hunter mindset' leaves no room for complacency

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

After spending 17 years with hope and belief that the IPL trophy would one day make its way to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Royal Challengers Bengaluru finally realised their long-awaited dream of winning the IPL last season.

On that very night, RCB's Director of Cricket, Mo Bobat, urged his players to get addicted to winning during the celebrations in the dressing room.

Fast forward 12 months (well, almost), RCB are top of the league again, and were the first team to punch their playoffs ticket this season.

Bobat credited their dominating campaign to a "hunter mindset" which has helped the defending champions prevent complacency from creeping in.

"As it was such a long wait for us to win that first title, I didn't want it to feel like we had already climbed our Everest," Bobat told a select media at RCB Innovation Lab's Indian Sports Summit.

"We wanted to just keep climbing, keep hunting. We've talked about that language internally, just trying to stay in that hunter mindset. Sport is quite unforgiving. You win a

Mo Bobat

trophy, and very quickly, people move on, and the world moves on."

Bobat, who took up a full-time role after serving RCB on a consultancy basis, said that the cultural shift was more in the mind than in the middle. "Most of it is just that psychological shift, just making sure that people are all aligned and motivated to go through and achieve the next thing.

"You have to find the right balance between enjoying and being proud of what you have managed to achieve, but also shift people's attention towards what's the next target or goal. The same will be true this season, regardless of how the season pans out. Obviously, we're keen to go all the way," he said.

The Englishman also highlighted that RCB, in their title-winning season, managed to change the thought process that IPL is won only when a franchise is a dominant force at home.

"When I got here, I realised that it had been difficult for us to have a home advantage. I heard a lot of them saying if you are not dominant at home, you won't win the IPL. A part of me thought let us win all away games. And last year, we were really good. To some degree, it did challenge the thought process of being good at home and away games aren't as important."

"Ultimately, you have to play 14 games and probably win nine or 10. I think we kind of taught ourselves that last year. You've got to be humble enough to know that you're not doing well," he explained.

Bobat also admitted that the man-management of the diverse nature of players in the IPL was "hard" but also one of the most "exciting" challenges that the tournament offers.

"You could have a 19-year-old who has been signed on his first IPL contract, and you could have an Indian player in their mid-thirties. The IPL also has a slightly distorted financial context, as different players earn (different amount). To get all of those people lined up to the same motive and in the same direction is not easy, but that's one of the really exciting challenges."

ISL set for a grand finale

KOLKATA, PTI: A multi-team battle for the Indian Super League title is set for a dramatic finale with five sides -- including traditional heavyweights Mohun Bagan and East Bengal FC -- remaining in contention heading into the last round matches across various venues on Thursday.

With the shortened season producing one of the closest title races, all eyes will be on simultaneous fixtures involving Punjab FC, Mumbai City, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan.

East Bengal, who will face Inter Kashi in Kolkata, are currently in pole position to win the title. Sitting atop the table with a superior goal difference, they have the best chance to lift the title.

Bagan rejected

Meanwhile Seven ISL clubs -- including Bengaluru FC -- East Bengal, were granted the AIFF Club Licensing Premier 1 licence while applications of several top-flight sides, including Mohun Bagan Super Giant and Kerala Blasters FC, were rejected.

The other clubs granted licences with sanctions are NorthEast United, Jamshedpur FC, Mumbai City FC, FC Goa and Punjab FC. The clubs rejected were SC Delhi, Odisha FC, Chennaiyin FC, Kerala Blaster, Mohammedan and Inter Kashi.

Sasikumar enters quarterfinals

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

As one Indian after the other withered away on Wednesday, Mukund Sasikumar stood his ground to become the lone representative from the host nation to move into the quarterfinal of the SM Krishna Memorial ATP 50 Challenger here.

Playing the first match of the day on centre court, the 29-year-old Chennai man's patience paid dividends during his 6-4, 7-6 (1) win over qualifier Taiyo Yamanaka of Japan.

In the opening set, Sasikumar had to wait till the eighth game to smell his first opportunity and the world No. 536 duely broke Yamanaka to go ahead.

The second set turned out to be a closer affair. Despite saving three break points, the Indian succumbed in the fourth as the Japanese took a 4-3 lead before holding serve to extend it to 5-3. A good service game in the ninth helped Sasikumar narrow the gap to 4-5 and then went on to level the proceedings 5-5.

With both the players holding their serves and making it 6-6, it was in the tie-breaker that Sasikumar unleashed his best to race away to a 7-1 win to close out the match in one hour 54 minutes.

India's Mukund Sasikumar beat Japan's Taiyo Yamanaka in the round of 16 of the SM Krishna Memorial tournament on Wednesday. DH FILE PHOTO

Later in the day, wild card entrant and Bengaluru boy Kriish Tyagi's impressive run over two weeks was put to an end by third seed Hamish Stewart of Great Britain. Stewart won 6-4, 6-3.

Results (Pre-quarterfinal, prefix denotes seedings): Mukund Sasikumar (Ind) bt Q-Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) 6-4, 7-6 (1); 2-Alastair Gray (GBR) bt Dominik Palan (CZE) 6-3, 7-6 (2); Ilya Ivashka bt WC-Manish Sureshkumar (Ind) 6-1, 6-1; 3-Hamish Stewart (GBR) bt WC-Kriish Tyagi (Ind) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; Alex Hernandez (Mex) bt Q-Naoya Honda (Jpn) 5-7, 7-5, 6-4; Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) bt Yusuke Takahashi (Jpn) 6-3, 6-2; 6-Ognjen Milic (Srb) bt Sidharth Rawat (Ind) 6-3, 6-1; 4-Petr Bar Biryukov bt Leo Vithoontien (Jpn) 7-6 (4), 6-4.

Lakshya, Prannoy make early exit

KUALA LUMPUR, PTI: India's Malvika Bansod and Ashmita Chaliha emerged as the lone bright spots on an otherwise disappointing day for the country at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 here, advancing to the second round with contrasting wins in women's singles.

In men's singles, eighth seed Lakshya Sen, the brightest Indian prospect, crashed out after a shock 17-21, 11-21 defeat to Indonesia's world No. 38 Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah.

HS Prannoy, the 2023 Asian games and World Championships bronze winner, too bowed out after a marathon battle against Japan's sixth seed Kodai Naraoka, losing 17-21, 22-20, 22-24 in an 80-minute contest.

Malvika, who is on a comeback trail after recovering from an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injury that required surgery, fought back strongly to beat Germany's world No. 52 Yvonne Li 21-17, 16-21, 21-9 while Ashmita registered a comfortable 21-16, 21-13 victory over Indonesia's world No. 56 Thalita Ramadhani Wiryawan.

Malvika will face Denmark's eighth seed Line Højmark Kjaersfeldt, while Ashmita takes on Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei next.

Domestic season starts Aug 23, Ranji from Oct 11

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Ranji Trophy will once again be played in two phases with the opening round starting on October 11 while the 2026-27 domestic season will commence with the Duleep Trophy starting August 23, the BCCI announced on Wednesday.

The BCCI will be organising 1788 games across age-group and senior cricket segments during the season, which include U-16, U-19, U-23, senior level for men and U-15, U-19, U-23 and senior level for women.

Keeping up with the demand of time, the U-23 white ball competition and the Inter-zonal University meet for Vizzy Trophy will be played in T20 format going forward.

"The 2026-27 domestic season reflects the BCCI's continued commitment to building a strong and competitive domestic structure while ensuring a balanced progression across formats and categories," the board stated in release.

The Duleep Trophy, which is back in zonal format, will be played between August 23 to September 10. The entire tournament will be held at BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Ranji Trophy will again be played in two phases: the first from October 11 to November 5, and the second next year from January 17 to March 3. DH FILE PHOTO

The Irani Cup between Ranji Trophy champions Jammu and Kashmir and Rest of India will be played from October 1 to 5 in Srinagar.

The blue riband event of BCCI's domestic calendar — the Ranji Trophy — will have its first phase between October 11 to November 5 in which four rounds will be held.

The second phase, between January 17 to March 3, 2027, will happen after the completion of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (National T20s) and Vijay Hazare Trophy (National 50-over meet).

The SMAT will be held between November 14 to December 6. The four venues for the league stages are Mumbai, Mohali, Vizag and Kolkata. The knock-out stage will be held in Nagpur.

The timing of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will allow the talent scouts to prepare their lists before the IPL auction which will be held sometime in December.

RANJI TROPHY

- **Elite Group B:** Karnataka, Andhra, Saurashtra, Chhattisgarh, Hyderabad, Tripura, Punjab, Assam.
- **Phase 1:** Oct 11 to Nov 5; **Phase 2:** Jan 17 to Feb 4; **Knockout phase:** February 9 to March 3
- **SMAT**
- **Elite Group A:** Karnataka, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Baroda, Bengal, UP, Chandigarh, Mizoram.
- **Vijay Hazare Trophy**
- **Group D:** Karnataka, UP, Kerala, Bengal, Tripura, Arunachal, Odisha, Assam, Pondicherry.

Bogdan-Daniel test for Praggu after rest day

BUCHAREST (ROMANIA), PTI: Second-placed Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa will take on Romania's Deac Bogdan-Daniel in the sixth round of the Super Chess Classic, a part of the Grand Chess Tour, seeking to break his run of draws, here.

After five rounds, Germany's Vincent Keymer (3.5 points) is in sole lead by half a point over a chasing pack that includes Dutch duo of Anish Giri and Jorden van Foreest, top seeded American Fabiano Caruana and Praggnanandhaa.

Caruana joined the shared second spot by defeating Alireza Firouzja of France in his fourth round game that was pushed back to the rest day as the latter suffered an ankle injury.

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France and Wesley share the sixth spot on 2.5 points each while World Champion ship challenger Javokhir SIndarov of Uzbekistan are right behind on two points. Romanian Bogdan-Daniel is in ninth spot on 1.5 points, half point ahead of Firouzja.

After a lone victory over Sindarov in the second round besides four draws, the pressure is now on Praggnanandhaa.

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